

Sandy Smith

From: KEVIN and MARIANNE <OUTRIDERDULUTH@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 5:07 PM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Craig Wilson
Subject: HRE 04 - Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation - Phase III; Revised Budget Spreadsheet
DRAFT
Attachments: Revised Budget Spreadsheet-Phase III.docx

Sandy:

Attached is a draft of the LSSA's budget spreadsheet as requested by the LSOHC committee this past Tuesday. Please look it over to confirm that this is what the committee is looking for and in the proper form. Once we hear back from you on any recommended changes we will resubmit the final revision for the record.

Sorry we couldn't get it to you any sooner. I assume you will see it first thing Monday morning. Hope you had a good weekend.

Thanks for all your help.

Kevin Bovee

Lake Superior Steelhead Association Revised Budget Spreadsheet

HRE 04 – Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation – Phase III

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$520,000	\$25,680	LSSA In-kind	\$0
Contracts	\$3,846,000	\$28,440	LSSA Paid Donation to LSOHC Grant	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Travel	\$1,000	\$22,500	LSSA In-kind	\$0
Professional Services	\$9,000	\$36,000	LSSA Paid Donation to LSOHC Grant	\$0
Direct Support Services In-Kind LSSA Labor to Projects	\$0	\$55,380	N/A	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$50,000	\$8,940	LSSA In-kind	\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$774,000	\$3000	LSSA Paid Donation to LSOHC Grant	\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	N/A	\$0
Total	\$5,200,000	\$179,940	-	\$5,379,940

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
2	0.80	6.00	\$520,000	\$25,680	In-Kind Private Sources	\$0
Total	0.80	6.00	\$0	\$0	-	\$0

Capital Equipment

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
N/A				

Amount of Request: \$5,200,000

Amount of Leverage: \$179,940

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 3.46%

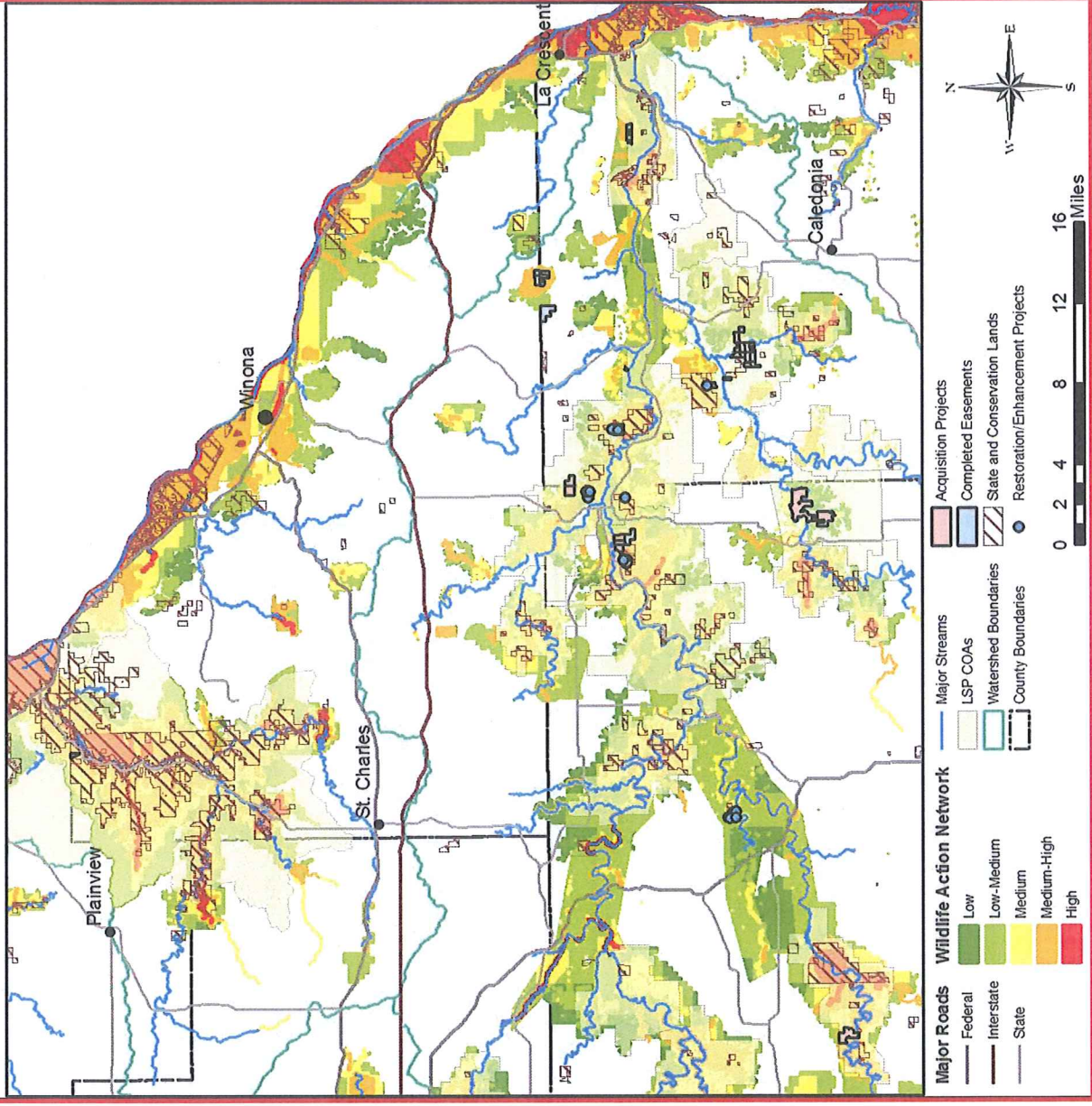
FA – 04 Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration Phase 5

Southeast MN Protection and Restoration by OHF Grant												
Appropriation	Program	OHF	Leverage	Spent	Protection			Easement			Restoration/Enhancement	
					Fee Acquisition		To Date	Planned		To Date	Planned	To Date
					Planned	To Date		Planned	To Date			
ML 2009	Blufflands	\$500,000	\$37,500	\$537,500	0	0	300	548	0	0	0	
ML 2013	Phase 1	\$2,750,000	\$50,112	\$1,397,012	414	143	350	431	210	154	154	
ML 2014	Phase 2	\$5,770,000	\$2,144,440	\$6,634,900	1257	1505	480	0	237	110	110	
ML 2015	Phase 3	\$2,910,000	\$3,282	\$955,282	480	173	0	0	56	0	0	
ML 2016*	Phase 4	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	1173	0	300	0	631	0	0	
Total		\$16,430,000	\$2,197,834	\$8,987,194	3324	1821	1380	979	1134	264	264	

Notes

- **Blufflands (2009):** MLT only. Grant Completed.
- **Phase 1 (2013):** Appropriation was just for State Forest and SNA, limited opportunity for SNA in SEMN. Grant Completed.
- **Phase 2 (2014):** All remaining funds have been obligated for restoration and enhancement on Phase II acquisitions. \$2M private funds raised to complete large WMA acquisition. One remaining easement will close in 2017.
- **Phase 3 (2015):** Protection projects in negotiation and one scheduled to close within the month and restoration on 173 acres in process.
- **Phase 4 (2016):** Grant Agreement has not been signed as of August 26, 2016. While not all funds have been spent, there is an additional \$3M obligation through signed options or 60% of appropriated funds.

Protection, Restoration, and Enhancement Projects in Southeast Minnesota



Major Roads

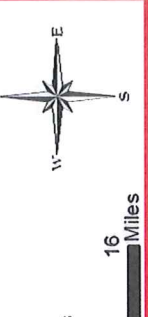
Federal
Interstate
State

Wildlife Action Network

Low
Low-Medium
Medium
Medium-High
High

Major Streams
LSP COAs
Watershed Boundaries
County Boundaries

Acquisition Projects
Completed Easements
State and Conservation Lands
Restoration/Enhancement Projects



Sandy Smith

From: MN Valley Trust <dloon@mnvalleytrust.org>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 1:06 PM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Wayne Ostlie; Deborah Loon; Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org); DJ Forbes
Subject: Re: Hearing follow up - HA02

Hi Sandy. I should be able to get additional information to you next week early. I do agree that the Council seemed satisfied with the ranking criteria MLT has provided. We can include that information in the email, if you wish.

A couple members were a bit confused about how MVT and TPL build our parcel lists. I explained that we are working within the parcels / areas on our lists, but won't move forward with all prospects in this one phase. Jane's final comment was something along the lines of expecting a more focused list in the Accomplishment Plan. We can talk with you all about whether to do that, as it just means amendments as we get more focused to add / subtract parcels.

At this point, I don't think we need to do anything re: the proposal. But if you want me to write something about how the parcel selection process works, I can certainly do that. I think the members understand that we are simultaneously working with numerous prospective landowners, as identified by our public partners, and we can't know which will be ready to close at what time.

Let me know.
 Deb

Deborah Loon
 Executive Director
 Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc.
 612-801-1935

On Aug 26, 2016, at 8:27 AM, Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn> wrote:

I will have to go back and listen to the tape again, I was going off some quickly written notes. Feel free to listen as well, the links are posted on the web site. Sorry for the confusion.

From: Wayne Ostlie [<mailto:wayneostlie@minnesotalandtrust.org>]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 2:20 PM
To: Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Cc: Deborah Loon <DebLoon@comcast.net>; (DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org) <DLoon@mnvalleytrust.org>; Bob McGillivray (bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org) <bob.mcgillivray@tpl.org>; DJ Forbes <DJ.Forbes@tpl.org>
Subject: Re: Hearing follow up - HA02

Sandy:

Can you confirm that the ranking/criteria clarification relates to Trust for Public Land as opposed to MLT? We do not have a parcel list in the proposal since we are doing an RFP process; our framework and rationale for selection was already uploaded as part of the proposal, and Jane Kingston acknowledged that it was both there and was good.

Thanks much!

Wayne

On Thu, Aug 25, 2016 at 11:49 AM, Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn> wrote:

Deb Loon:

In following up from Wednesday's OHF Hearing, please reply with clarification on the Big Marine parcel, and have MLT provide parcel ranking / criteria for parcel selection.

The Council's submits their individual funding recommendation to staff Friday, September 9th. In the past many members have submitted their selections prior to the holiday, so submitting your follow-up early next week is recommended.

Sandy Smith

Project Analyst Manager

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

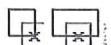
651-297-7141

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Wayne Ostlie
Director of Land Protection
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www.mnland.org

Protecting the places you treasure...forever.



Sandy Smith

From: McLennan, Helen - NRCS-CD, Little Falls, MN <helen.mclennan@mn.nacdn.net>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 4:35 PM
To: Sandy Smith; rusty@northlc.com; smolson@hormel.com; janehkingston@gmail.com; julie.blackburn@respec.com; david@dbhartwell.com; ron@mnbound.com; Rep.Leon Lillie; Rep.Denny McNamara; boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us; barry.capitolhill@usfamily.net; sen.bill.ingebriksen@senate.mn; sen.tom.saxhaug@senate.mn
Cc: Brezinka, Jay A NFG NG MNARNG (US); Bill Penning (bill.penning@state.mn.us); Rickert, Dave (BWSR)
Subject: Phase 7 ACUB supporting documents requested
Attachments: Enclosure 1 REPI FY17.pdf; The parcel scoring criteria for ACUB parcels involves 3 steps.doc; ACUB candidate parcel selection criteria - GIS analysis.xls; 2004-2016 Funding Table ACUB.docx; LSOHC Ph VII Map.pdf; LSOHC Report Card.xlsx

Chairman Anderson and members of the LSOHC Council:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to testify last week for Phase 7 of our continued efforts to protect forest lands and riparian properties within the ACUB zone, piggy backing our working land easements funded federally.

Ms. Kingston asked for some supporting documentation that we failed to provide so I hope the above attachments are what you were requesting. If there is anything else you need please let me know. We have several pending applications that we are working on that will also encumber the remainder of Phase 5 and go into Phase 6 that was released July 1, 2016. With a list of 450 interested landowners that have already signed commitments, we are only subject to our own limitations of how many we can work at once.

We are processing 33-35 easements per year, with an average of 6-9 months to completion.

Attachments include:

Enclosure 1 shows the parcels we target next (Based on Ranking).

Enclosure 2 is the parcel scoring sheet explains how we rank the parcels.

Enclosure 3 is the GIS spreadsheet that quantifies and explains each Attribute Value

Enclosure 4 is the full funding table showing Match

Helen McLennan
Morrison SWCD
1676 Heron Road
Little Falls, MN 56345
320-616-2479

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Sandy Smith

From: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 7:33 AM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Lindgren, John P (DNR); Kris Larson (klarson@mnland.org) (klarson@mnland.org); MacGregor, Molly (DNR)
Subject: SLR Response to Council
Attachments: SLRRI OHF Recap_GP-KB_PL_29Aug16.xlsx

Sandy,

On behalf of John and Kris, who are away today, here is the response to your email asking for budget clarification, including the attachment.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our proposal for the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative Phase 4 (HRE03). I would like to clarify and summarize our response to Mr. Hartwell's question regarding anticipated federal leverage and OHF funding needs. Member Hartwell asked: "if we had more leverage than anticipated, does that mean we need less OHF funding from this 2017 request."

The answer is that the potential for additional funds (from Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement) does not change our need for OHF funding for this project. Only a portion of the NRDA funds can be used for the Grassy/Kingsbury project. The project included funding from previous appropriations (ML2014) where the match has not been met. This will allow us to complete the Grassy/Kingsbury project in full and meet match requirements.

Although potential NRDA settlement funding was discussed at the hearing, it was not included as match in the proposal due to its uncertainty of settlement and details to how it could be used have not been finalized.

Our 2017 request also includes OHF funds and federal match for the Perch Lake restoration project as well.

<u>St. Louis River Restoration Initiative-OHF Appropriations for Construction</u>											
<u>Project</u>	<u>ML2014</u>			<u>ML2016</u>			<u>ML2017</u>				
	<u>Actual Acres</u>	<u>Construction Funds</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Actual Acres</u>	<u>Construction Funds</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Actual Acres</u>	<u>Construction Funds</u>	<u>Match</u>		
Grassy Point	45	\$ 1,255,591		20	\$ 994,750		60	\$ 4,000,000			
Kingsbury Bay				20	\$ 994,750						
Perch Lake							13	\$ 2,000,000			
Anticipated Leverage	45	\$ 1,255,591	\$ 400,000	40	\$ 1,989,500	\$ 3,000,000	73	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 2,500,000		
	7										
	38	\$ 1,255,591	\$ 400,000	40	\$ 1,989,500	\$ 3,000,000	73	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 2,500,000		

Sandy Smith

From: Loren Engelby <Loren_E@co.kandiyohi.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 1:01 PM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Netland, Cory (DNR) (Cory.Netland@state.mn.us); Coahran, Dave A (DNR); Wright, Skip W (DNR) (skip.wright@state.mn.us); 'Kavanagh, Joshua (DNR)'
Subject: RE: Hearing follow-up HRE06
Attachments: Lake Wakanda Map HRE06.pdf

Hi Sandy,

Request #1: I've attached a map of the Wakanda Project showing the features as requested.

Request #2: The following paragraph is a narrative explaining the upland species benefit.

Upland species stand to benefit from this project because healthy aquatic systems provide food and habitat for a wide variety of upland species at various stages of their life cycle. Improved water quality will reduce potentially toxic blue-green algae blooms that are harmful to terrestrial organisms that ingest the water. In addition, during partial drawdown, exposed mud flats will benefit wetland associated migratory shorebirds such as Piping Plover, American Golden Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, American Bittern, Yellow Rail, Wilson's Phalarope, and various herons and egrets. Following drawdown, the increased emergent vegetation around the lake will benefit many upland species in the form of added winter cover. Use of cattails for thermal winter cover by ringneck pheasants, in particular, has been well documented by research. The enhanced habitat will benefit several semi-aquatic upland species that seek food in healthy aquatic systems, such as river otter, raccoon, mink, bald eagles, and osprey. A healthy aquatic environment is part of an overall healthy ecosystem. Upland species are not relegated to dry land at all times. High quality diverse aquatic environments coupled with quality upland habitat is critical in order for nearly all upland species to thrive.

Request #3: The Budget line for "Contracts" includes the cost for the construction of the water control structures and fish barriers. Yes, 100% of the contract request amount is for Restore & Enhancement work.

Please let me know if there are any further questions or clarification needed.

Thank you.
Loren Engelby
Kandiyohi County

From: Sandy Smith [mailto:sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 11:30 AM
To: Loren Engelby <Loren_E@co.kandiyohi.mn.us>
Subject: Hearing follow-up HRE06

Loren Engelby:

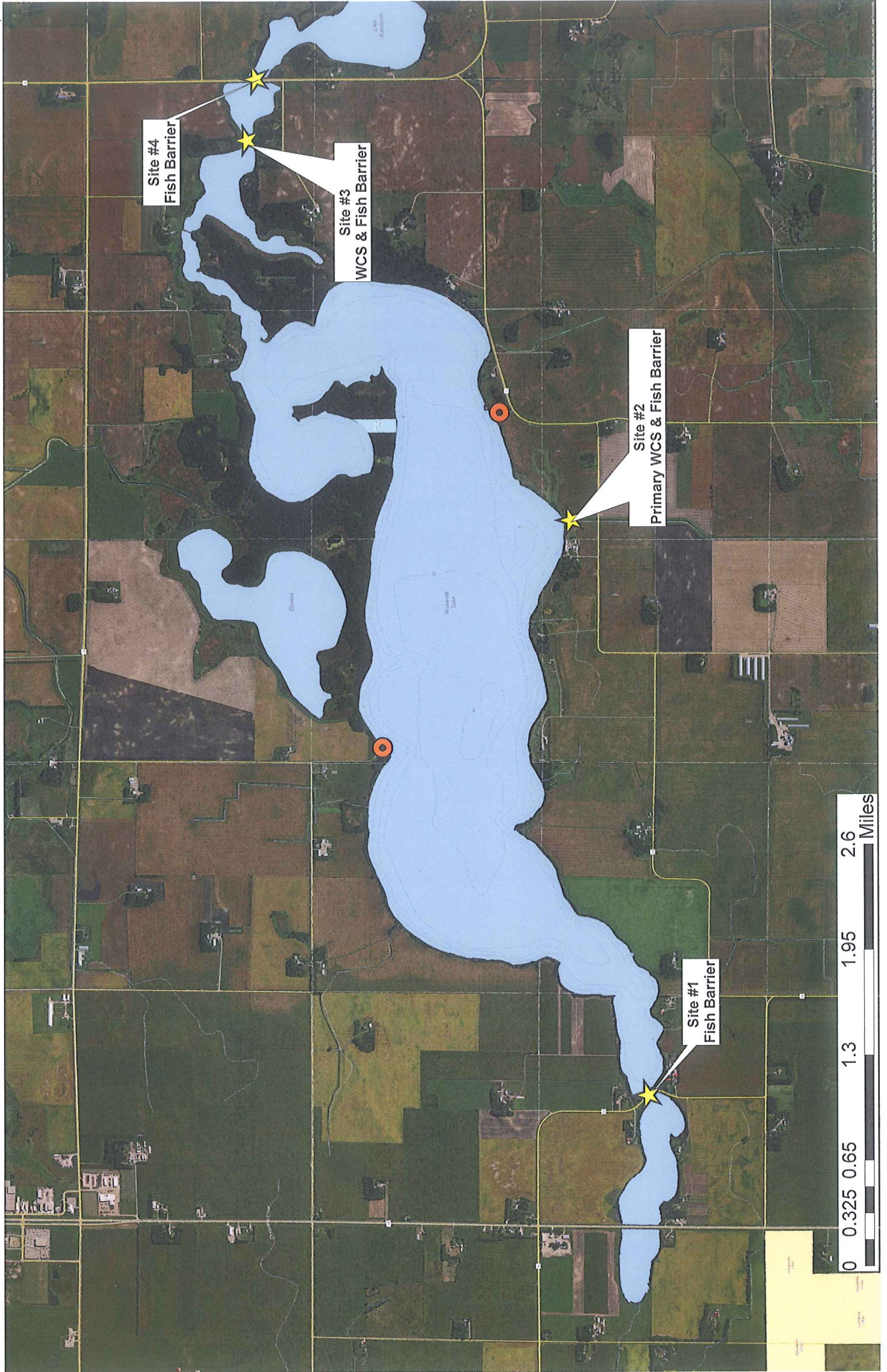
In following up from Tuesday's OHF Hearing, please reply with a 1) map showing the different locations of the water control structures verses the fish barrier locations since the map showed them jointly, 2) short narrative regarding upland species benefit from work, 3) breakout of R/E cost estimates.

The Council's submits their individual funding recommendation to staff Friday, September 9th. In the past many members have submitted their selections prior to the holiday, so submitting your follow-up early next week is recommended.

Sandy Smith
Project Analyst Manager
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
651-297-7141

Lake Wakanda Enhancement Project - HRE06

- Public Water Access
- Structure Sites
- WCS = Water Control Structure



Sandy Smith

From: Nelson, Emilee <enelson@conservationfund.org>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2016 4:20 PM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: Craig Engwall; Hobbs, Steve
Subject: Re: Hearing follow up - FA 02
Attachments: FA 02 Prioritization Model.docx; ATT00001.htm; FA02 Prioritization Model.pdf; ATT00002.htm

Hi Sandy,

In response to Wednesday's OHF hearing for FA 02 Laurentian Forest - St. Louis County Habitat Project, here is the selection process for the prioritization of parcels, along with a map for illustration. Also included are answers to the topics of mineral rights and the transaction chain. Because this is a programatic approach through this prioritization process, I don't believe a parcel list is required as long as the selection criteria are provided.

Please feel free to follow-up with any questions or additional data if needed.

My best,

Emilee Nelson

Emilee Nelson
Minnesota Conservation Acquisition Associate
The Conservation Fund
Office: 952-595-5768
Email: enelson@conservationfund.org
www.conservationfund.org

On Aug 25, 2016, at 11:38 AM, Craig Engwall <craig.engwall@mndeerhunters.com> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Sandy Smith" <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Date: Aug 25, 2016 11:36 AM
Subject: Hearing follow up - FA 02
To: "Craig Engwall" <craig.engwall@mndeerhunters.com>
Cc:

Craig Engwall:

In following up from Wednesday's OHF Hearing, please reply with your selection process (ranking and selection criteria), scaled down and prioritized parcel list and accompanying map, are identify parcels with unsevered mineral rights, and specific chain of title process.

The Council's submits their individual funding recommendation to staff Friday, September 9th. In the past many members have submitted their selections prior to the holiday, so submitting your follow-up early next week is recommended.

Sandy Smith

Project Analyst Manager

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

651-297-7141

FA 02, Laurentian Forest – St. Louis County Habitat Project

Prioritization Analysis

The methods for choosing which parcels to protect with this project will be done through a mapping algorithm that follows these steps:

1. Identify high quality Potlatch forestland that is important habitat for forest species such as the Golden-winged warbler, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and northern long-eared bat. Data used will come from the Minnesota Biological Survey, The Nature Conservancy and other pertinent sources.
2. Identify Tax Forfeit lands greater than 120 contiguous acres in size that contain high quality habitat or habitat that can be cost-effectively restored.
3. Select the Potlatch lands that are also directly adjacent to Tax Forfeit lands greater than 120-acres and meet the habitat filters from the first criteria.
4. Of those acres, prioritize Potlatch lands that are also directly adjacent to State Forest, US Forest Service, or MN DNR ownership.

This methodology will assist in developing large, contiguous blocks of high-quality habitat that can be managed sustainably.

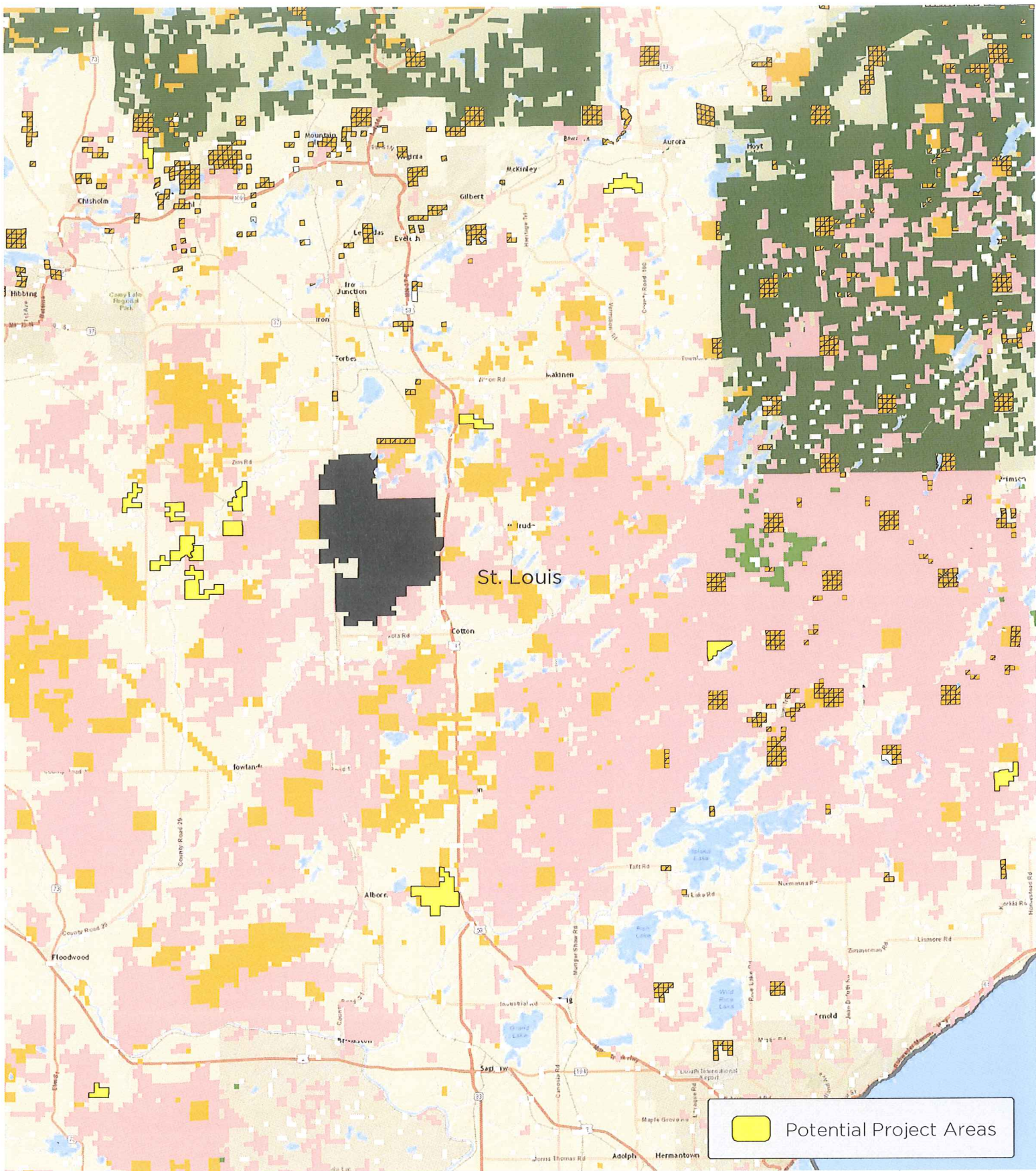
An example (not the final version) of this search image is seen in the following map, selecting a possible 15,000 acres of possible acquisitions based on the selection criteria above.

Mineral Rights

Determining ownership of mineral rights requires expensive title work on each parcel, which we will not identify until the project moves forward pending council approval and funding. We will avoid areas of mineralization in this project because there are numerous opportunities to effectively protect large assemblages outside the area of mineralization.

Transaction Chain

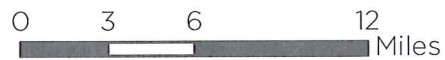
MDHA will purchase the Potlatch lands and transfer to St. Louis County. The Conservation Fund will negotiate the purchases with Potlatch. If a highly desired parcel is in danger of being sold by Potlatch, The Conservation Fund would potentially purchase the land in advance and subsequently sell the land to MDHA for their cost of acquisition. This pathway would only be pursued if absolutely necessary to ensure the integrity of the project.



FA02 - Laurentian Forest St. Louis County Habitat Project



	School Trust Potential Mineral Areas		State Forest
	School Trust		Tax Forfeit Acres
	Sax-Zim Bog		0 - 120
	US Forest Service		121 - 307272



THE CONSERVATION FUND

Created by Emilee Nelson Date: 8/26/2016

FA 07 State Forest Acquisition – Phase IV: Summary of past appropriations

		Received	Spent-to-date	Acres (to date)	
Phase I	ML 2011, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 1, Subdivision 3 (g)	\$1,205,000	\$1,204,900	306 protected	Complete
Phase II	ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(e)	\$950,000	\$398,281	95 protected	Active: Parcels are in queue for project to be completed by end of the year. Appraisal just completed on 96 acre parcel.
Phase III	ML 2016, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec.2, Subd. 3(g)	\$1,000,000	\$0.00	0 protected	Active: just awarded beginning acquisitions. \$200,000 for northern forests.
Phase IV	ML 2017	\$0.00	\$0.00	0 protected	Requested

Richard J. Dorer Acquisition Funding History

The primary funding source for acquiring the majority of the lands was provided by the legislature back in the 1960's and early 70's. At the time, land was about \$25.00 per acre and there was an ambitious 50 year goal (2016) of 200,000 acres. Only about 25 percent of the goal was reached.

Since that time, DNR – Forestry has had limited opportunities and funding support, with the primary support (\$2.9 million) coming from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Forestry also did receive some Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM – FY05) and bonding funds (FY06), but those were not specific to the RJ Dorer Forest and used state-wide.

Forestry continues to look for other opportunities to implement the Land Asset Plan for the RJ Dorer forest through the legislature, conservation partners (non-LSOHC resources) and private donations.

Boot brushes / Kiosks

These will be removed from the proposal

Robert (Bob) Milne

State-wide Forestry Lands Consultant
Minnesota DNR - Division of Forestry
500 Lafayette Rd
St Paul, MN 55155-0044

bob.milne@state.mn.us

Work: 651-259-5270

Cell: 218-407-7924

WA 02

Sandy Smith

From: Jon Schneider <jschneider@ducks.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 10:44 PM
To: Sandy Smith; Jane Kingston; Joe Pavelko
Cc: John Lindstrom
Subject: RE: Hearing follow up WA 02
Attachments: DU OHF ACQ Grant Expense Acres and Leverage Summary.pdf; DU OHF ENH Grant Expense Acres and Leverage Summary.pdf

Thanks, Sandy, I was working on these when your email arrived today, and just completed tonight.

Attached is a table for each of our OHF grant programs that includes our Leverage Expense along with Grant Expense and Habitat Goals/Accomplishments too. One table is for our wetland/prairie land acquisition and restoration program, and the other for our wetland engineering enhancement/restoration program.

You'll note that DU has usually exceeded our habitat acre and leverage goals, especially in more recent years, and especially for our engineering enhancement program for which we have been successful in planning and securing federal NAWCA grants. It is more difficult to do that for land acquisitions that develop on short notice (NAWCA process is complex and takes 1+ years), whereas our wetland enhancement and restoration projects are often designed years in advance which allows more time to seek site specific funding. Having said that, I've worked hard recently to line up NAWCA grant funding to help restore lands recently acquired via ML2015 and ML2016 as you'll note in the land acquisition table. DU partnered with PF and TNC to secure four large NAWCA grants this spring.

Also, it was very difficult to acquire prairie land back in 2009-2011 due to spike in crop/land prices, which hindered our ability to purchase land and meet our goals. Joe will remember those years with high and rising land prices. However, we gained lots of experience and we now we have many willing sellers of key parcels with drained wetlands adjacent to existing state Wildlife Management Areas that want to work with DU (who will not consider easements), and thus we are requesting more money for land acquisition so we don't miss these "once in a generation" opportunities to restore key parcels.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns, and thanks for your consideration of our conservation funding requests. Sincerely, Jon.



JON SCHNEIDER
Manager - Minnesota Conservation Programs
311 East Lake Geneva Rd., Alexandria, MN 56308
Office: 320.762.9916 / Cell: 320.815.0327
Fax: 320.759.1567 / jschneider@ducks.org
www.ducks.org

From: Sandy Smith [mailto:sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 11:33 AM
To: Jon Schneider <jschneider@ducks.org>
Subject: Hearing follow up WA 02

Jon Schneider:

In following up from Tuesday's OHF Hearing, please reply with a history of the match breakdown as requested by Jane Kingston.

The Council's submits their individual funding recommendation to staff Friday, September 9th. In the past many members have submitted their selections prior to the holiday, so submitting your follow-up early next week is recommended.

Sandy Smith
Project Analyst Manager
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
651-297-7141

Ducks Unlimited Shallow Lake & Wetland Protection Program History (acquisition & restoration of wetlands & prairie)

Appropriation Year:	OHF Appropriation Amount:	OHF Funds Spent:	OHF Funds Remaining:	Habitat Acre Goals in Accomplishment Plan	Habitat Acres Accomplished	Leverage Anticipated in Accomplishment Plan	Actual Leverage (reported or underway)
2009 (Phase I)	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0	100 acres	63 acres in 2 tracts	\$24,800	\$26,500
2010 (Phase II)	\$2,625,000	\$2,616,500	\$0	750 acres	352 acres in 5 tracts	\$0	\$0
2013 (Phase III)	\$3,530,000	\$3,530,000	\$0	400 acres	567 acres in 11 tracts	\$100,000	\$56,600
2015 (Phase IV): Acquisition work is done, restoration ongoing now	\$9,040,000	\$7,527,200	\$1,512,800	900 acres	995 acres in 3 tracts, restoration work underway now	\$60,000	\$130,000 secured for restoration costs from NAWCA
2016 (Phase V): Ongoing now, great progress made in 2 months!	\$5,801,000	\$2,725,000	\$3,076,000	600 acres	448 acres in 5 tracts closing fall 2016, 2+ more pending spring 2017, will exceed goal 4 sure!	\$25,000	\$230,000 secured for restoration costs from NAWCA already!
2017 (Phase VI) Proposed	\$20,410,000 (requested)	n/a	n/a	2,000 acres (proposed)	pending in 2017+	\$600,000 (proposed)	pending future NAWCA grants

Ducks Unlimited Living Shallow Lake Enhancement & Wetland Restoration Program History (wetland engineering)

Appropriation Year:	OHF Appropriation Amount:	OHF Funds Spent:	OHF Funds Remaining:	Habitat Acre Goals in Accomplishment Plan	Habitat Acres Accomplished	Leverage Anticipated in Accomplishment Plan	Actual Leverage (reported or underway)
2009 (Phase I)	\$2,528,000	\$2,528,000	\$0	6,000 acres	6,882 acres	\$372,900	\$1,111,100
2010 (Phase II)	\$5,042,000	\$5,042,000	\$0	7,235 acres	7,251 acres	\$0	\$1,205,400
2012 (Phase III)	\$4,490,000	\$4,490,000	\$0	1,500 acres	3,086 acres	\$40,800	\$839,300
2014 (Phase IV): ongoing, all funds will be obligated in 2017	\$4,910,000	\$2,735,600	\$2,174,400	4,000 acres	2,113 acres to date; 3,500 acres pending; 5,600+ ac total	\$110,000	\$387,315 secured from NAWCA
2017 (Phase V) Proposed	\$14,900,000 (requested)	n/a	n/a	6,200 acres (proposed)	pending in 2017+	\$300,000 (proposed)	pending future NAWCA grants

PA09

Sandy Smith

From: Doug Hartke <dhartke@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2016 10:07 AM
To: Amanda Brazee; Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko
Cc: Rich Perrine; Tim Eisenmenger
Subject: FW: LSOHC MAP NEEDED
Attachments: Fox Lake Habitat Complex.pdf; Island WMA Potential Acqs.pdf; Rooney Run WMA Potential Acquisitions.pdf

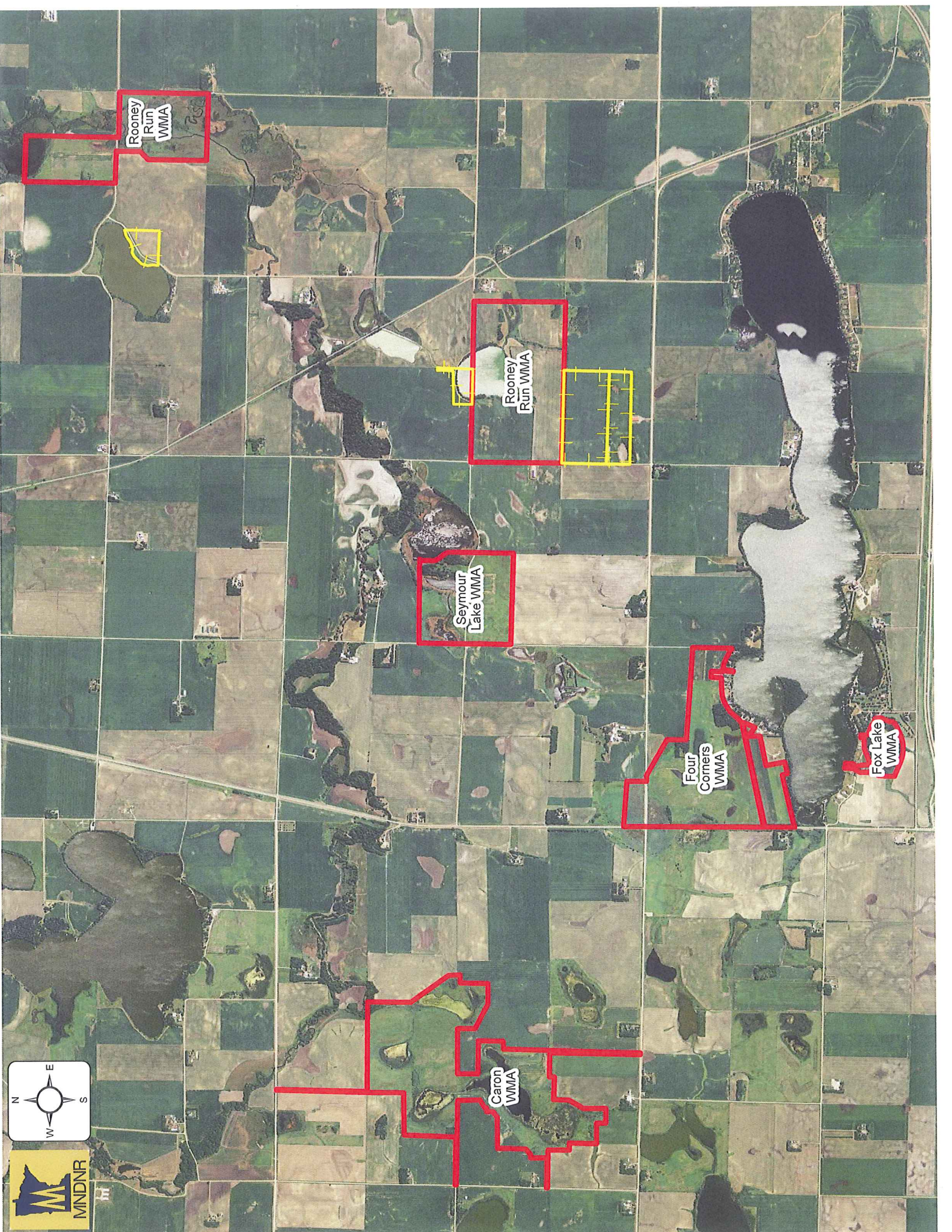
Attached are maps of the parcel list and where there are in proximity to the WMA

Would you please forward to Council Members?

Thanks

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



Rooney Run WMA

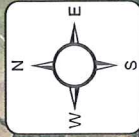
Rooney Run WMA

Seymour Lake WMA

Caron WMA

Four Corners WMA

Fox Lake WMA





Island
WMA



Pierce
Lake WPA



Pierce
Lake

PF to transfer to DNR



Tract 19 - Striemer

Tract 13 - Tenhassen Farms





Creek Lake

Clam Lake

Rooney Run WMA

Tract 16 - Schultz

Tract 21 - Reed

Seymour Lake WMA

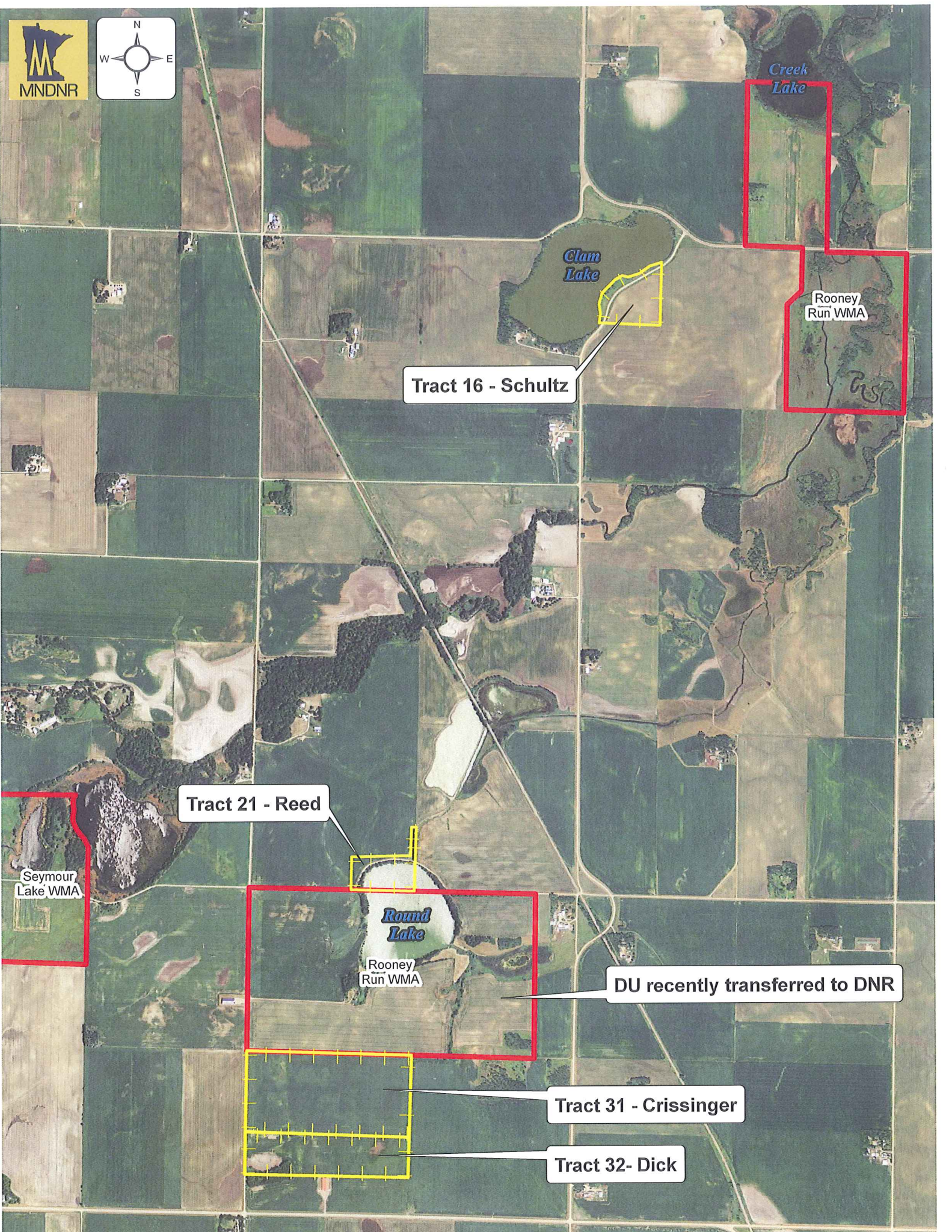
Round Lake

Rooney Run WMA

DU recently transferred to DNR

Tract 31 - Crissinger

Tract 32 - Dick



Budget Spreadsheet

WRE 03

Total Amount of Request: \$1,562,700

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHCRequest	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$835,600	\$549,500	NPS and other federal agencies, NPS, NPS, Donations, NPS, NPS, NPS	\$1,385,100
Contracts	\$400,000	\$200,000	National Park Service	\$600,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$25,000	\$10,000	NPS	\$35,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$5,000	NPS	\$5,000
Direct Support Services	\$142,100	\$81,100	NPS	\$223,200
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$35,000	\$200,000	NPS	\$235,000
Other Equipment/Tools	\$50,000	\$50,000	NPS	\$100,000
Supplies/Materials	\$75,000	\$50,000	NPS	\$125,000
DNRIDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$1,562,700	\$1,145,600		\$2,708,300

Personnel

org. \$ 1,782,700

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHCRequest	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Biologist Project Manager	0.75	5.00	\$445,100	\$151,500	NPS and other federal agencies	\$596,600
Biological Science Technician - Term	0.50	5.00	\$119,100	\$119,100	NPS	\$238,200
Biological Science Technician - Seasonal	0.50	5.00	\$135,700	\$45,200	NPS	\$180,900
Biological Science Technician - Seasonal	0.50	5.00	\$135,700	\$45,200	Donations	\$180,900
Project Administrator	0.01	5.00	\$0	\$10,000	NPS	\$10,000
Project Supervisor	0.10	5.00	\$0	\$56,000	NPS	\$56,000
Restoration Ecologist	0.25	5.00	\$0	\$122,500	NPS	\$122,500
Total	2.61	35.00	\$835,600	\$549,500		\$1,385,100

Capital Equipment

Item Name	LSOHCRequest	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Boat and motor for water access	\$35,000	\$200,000	NPS	\$235,000
Total	\$35,000	\$200,000		\$235,000

Amount of Request: \$1,562,700

Amount of Leverage: \$1,145,600

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 73.31%

DSS + Personnel: \$977,700

As a % of the total request: 62.56%

Easement Stewardship: \$0

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -%

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

Requested 10% of grand total for overhead, 100% of which is direct to this program. Anticipated leverage of 5% of grand total as in-kind support direct to this program

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

The amount in the contract line is \$400k for contracting harvesting equipment for cattail removal.

*** The requested funding for personnel includes three technicians and a project manager. The technicians will be on the ground

HA 06

Sandy Smith

From: Van Offelen, Henry (DNR) <Henry.Van.Offelen@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 11:39 AM
To: janehkingston@gmail.com
Cc: Sandy Smith; Mark Johnson; Kevin Ruud
Subject: HA-06 Goose Prairie Enhancement: answers to questions
Attachments: Question raised by Council_HV_NB.DOCX

Hello Ms. Kingston,

I just wanted to follow-up our presentation on the Goose Prairie Project and send you the document we had prepared in anticipation of questions about the project. The document is based on some of the questions which were sent in emails to Kevin Ruud prior to the council meeting. Please include this document in the record of the information for this project if you think that it would be helpful.

If you have other questions, please let Kevin or I know and we would be glad to answer them.

Thank you,

Henry Van Offelen
Red River Basin Coordinator
MN DNR Ecological and Water Resources
218-846-8406 (office)
218-849-5270 (cell)

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

Question raised/Comment by Council	Wild Rice Watershed District/DNR Response
<p>What about providing fish passage, not just barriers?</p>	<p>Goose Prairie Marsh was likely an isolated basin before it was drained by the construction of County Ditch #18. Historically it did not provide fish habitat. The project goal is to manage Goose Prairie Marsh as a shallow lake, and research has shown that fish are incompatible with shallow lake management. Fish disrupt food web dynamics, decrease overall submerged plant coverage, and increase turbidity in the water, all of which lead to degraded habitat conditions for waterfowl and other associated wildlife.</p>
<p>How does the realignment provide better public access?</p>	<p>The old outlet channel is now an area of solid cattails. A new outlet channel properly aligned could provide access for boats to access Goose Prairie Marsh from the north end of the WMA. Overall improved habitat conditions from the realignment and associated structure will improve fall waterfowl hunting.</p>
<p>Is this a flood or habitat project?</p>	<p>The primary purpose of this project is to improve wildlife habitat conditions in Goose Prairie Marsh. The secondary purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of downstream local and regional flooding damage. Like most shallow lake enhancement projects, this project provides both functions. In this case, the flood damage aspects were designed into the project rather than just being incidental benefits.</p>
<p>Could excessive vegetation at the outlet be removed to increase water flow and accomplish the same objective for less cost?</p>	<p>Removing cattails from the outlet could allow for increased flow from Goose Prairie Marsh; however, removing these cattails and associated plants would have a direct impact to wetlands under the wetland conservation act which would require mitigation. Removal of vegetation along the historic CD 18 channel was considered during project planning but the new channel alignment had fewer wetland impacts and became the preferred alternative. An outlet control structure is also essential to manage water levels in the lake and provide the capacity for near full drawdown to manage vegetation in this shallow lake. Without the control structure, a road culvert would be the only passive control of lake water elevations.</p>
<p>Road heightening does not seem like habitat enhancement</p>	<p>The road raise is essential for installation of the water control structure and to meet road and dam safety requirements. Without the road raise and water control structure, active management of the shallow lake is not possible.</p>
<p>Is the new channel mostly about access and not habitat?</p>	<p>The new channel will be designed to effectively convey water from the lake basin to the outlet structure so that lake levels can be properly managed to meet the project purpose. The new channel will also facilitate future maintenance access and will minimize wetland impacts and high project costs associated with the inaccessible nature of the existing channel within extensive cattails and floating bogs.</p>

Question raised/Comment by Council	Wild Rice Watershed District/DNR Response
Could this be part of other shallow lakes proposals?	Unlike other shallow lakes projects, this is a joint project between the Wild Rice Watershed District and the MN DNR. Because of the scale of this project, including both a water control structure and land acquisition, it would not be practical to group this with other shallow lakes proposals.
No scalability	This is not a program based funding request but rather a project based funding request similar to other proposals.
CD 18 definition	"CD 18" is County Ditch 18, which was dug in 1915 and drained Goose Prairie Marsh.
Different cost amounts for enhancement?	I think this is an artifact of how the costs are automatically calculated by the computer. The enhance costs in table 6 probably includes all the acres in the WMA whereas the enhance costs in Table 5 are calculated only using the wetland acres and thus the cost is higher.
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	In the Red River Prairie Subsection are listed 37 SGCN species that depend on shallow lake or wetland habitats. Included are 11 species dependent upon shallow lakes, 4 Endangered or Threatened species, and 8 species of special concern. Of these species, black terns and trumpeter swans have been observed on Goose Prairie Marsh; both are over-water nesters and are sensitive to water level fluctuations during the nesting season, which should be improved with the project. Other migrant SGCN, including lesser scaup and northern pintail, should benefit from the improved habitat conditions.
Is the lake sediment-impacted as well as the outlet channel? Will dredging be necessary?	Survey work completed during project planning does not suggest that excessive sediment deposition is a problem in the lake. No dredging in the lake will be necessary.
Will the lake be lowered by gravity?	Yes, the design of the water control structure will allow the lake to be lowered by gravity.
How motivated are the listed sellers?	Landowners have been actively involved in planning this project. All are interested in easements and potentially open to acquisition.
Is the lake fished at all? Is it managed as a fishery or for waterfowl?	The lake has never been managed as a fishery. It will continue to be managed for waterfowl and associated wetland and shallow lakes wildlife.

HA02

Sandy Smith

From: Deb Loon, MN Valley Trust <dloon@mnvalleytrust.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 9:03 AM
To: Sandy Smith
Cc: DJ Forbes; 'Bob McGillivray'
Subject: Additional Information for Metro Big Rivers Phase 8 Proposal

Sandy, we would like to provide some additional information in follow up to questions posed at the LSOHC hearing of HA02, Metro Big Rivers – Phase 8. Following is clarification about the “TPL – St. Croix River/Big Marine Area” parcel for fee title acquisition:

The Big Marine Area parcel identified by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is not the same land that the Minnesota Land Trust has identified in its Carnelian Creek Conservation Corridor proposal.

TPL’s Big Marine Area parcel is a large prospective land protection opportunity near Big Marine Lake in the St. Croix River area. TPL has had preliminary conversations with the landowner. While our MBR 8 and previous Metro Big Rivers parcel lists show a parcel that is 1,000 acres in size with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, this does not capture the nuance of the prospective project. The landowner actually owns over 1,000 acres in the area. It has not yet been determined which portions of the land could best be acquired with this funding source. If we are able to move forward with acquisition of the parcel in its entirety, we anticipate it would cost in excess of \$10,000,000, require multiple Metro Big Rivers grant phases and other non-OHF funds.

Our Accomplishment Plan will reflect a reduced acreage amount to correlate with the final grant appropriation.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any additional questions on this habitat protection opportunity.

DJ Forbes
Program Manager
The Trust for Public Land

2610 University Ave. W. #300
St. Paul, MN 55114
Direct: 651.999.5325
Mobile: 952.358.1979

tpl.org

Amanda Brazee

From: Sandy Smith
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 10:08 AM
To: Amanda Brazee
Subject: FW: Hearing follow up - FA 05
Attachments: MN Forests for the Future OHF Appropriations Status Summary.pdf; FA 05 MN Forests for the Future PriorityList OHF2017.pdf; Scoring criteria MN Forests for the Future FA 05.pdf

From: Peterson, Richard F (DNR) [mailto:Richard.F.Peterson@state.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 10:05 AM
To: Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: RE: Hearing follow up - FA 05

Sandy: Attached are my priority list, scoring criteria, and summary status of previous OHF appropriations. Thanks for your patience.

From: Sandy Smith [mailto:sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 11:43 AM
To: Peterson, Richard F (DNR) <Richard.F.Peterson@state.mn.us>
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>
Subject: Hearing follow up - FA 05

Richard Peterson:

In following up from Wednesday's OHF Hearing, please reply with a prioritized parcel list.

The Council's submits their individual funding recommendation to staff Friday, September 9th. In the past many members have submitted their selections prior to the holiday, so **submitting your follow-up early next week is recommended.**

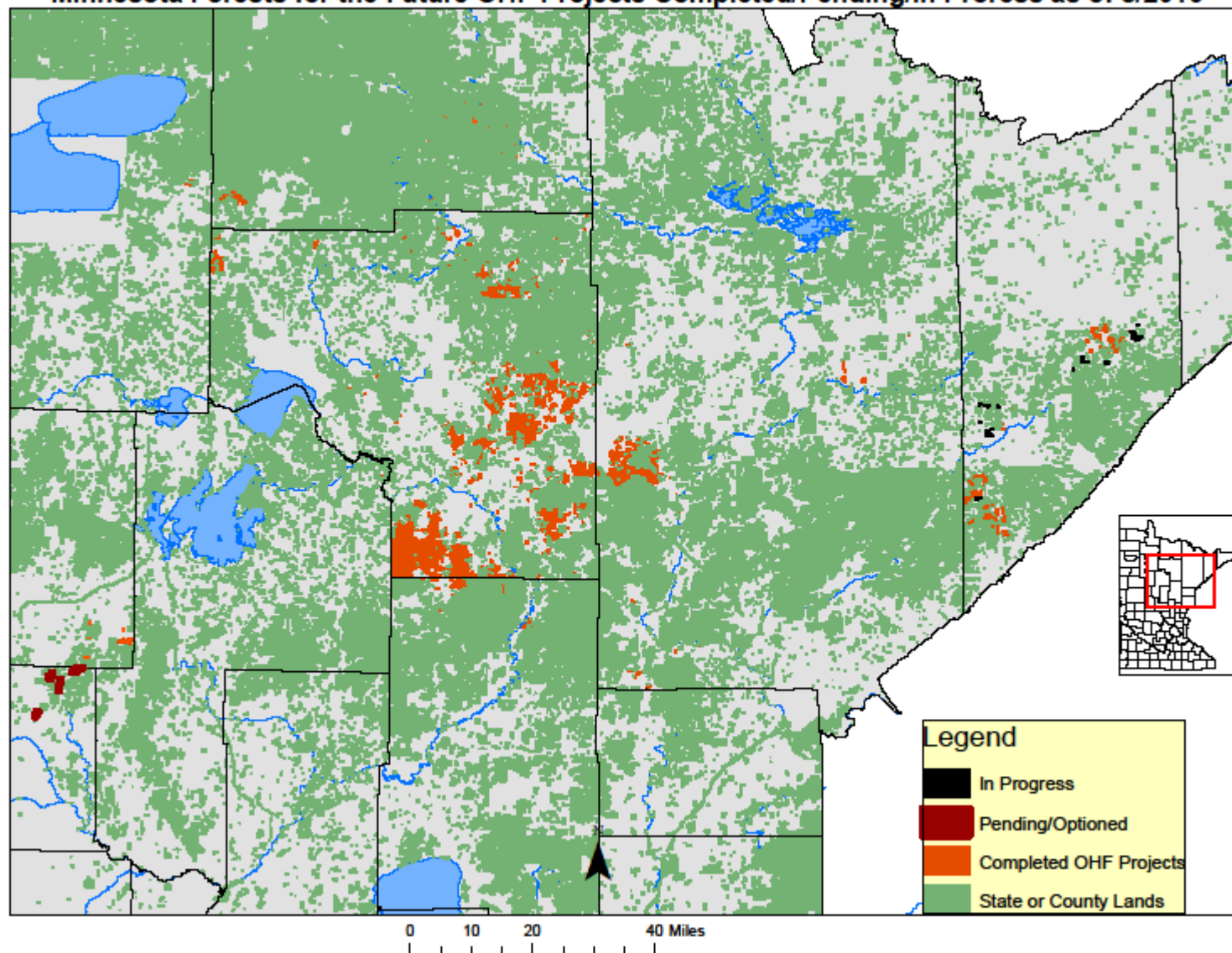
Sandy Smith
Project Analyst Manager
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
651-297-7141

FA 05 Minnesota Forests for the Future-Phase V: Summary of past appropriations

Program	Appropriation	Amount	Outcomes	Status
MN Forests for the Future Ph.1&2	ML2009, Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3	\$36,000,000 Leverage: \$10.5 million	190,622 acres protected	Completed
MN Forests for the Future Ph.3	ML 2011, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 1, Subdivision 3 (a)	\$5,409,000 Leverage: \$2.0 million	19,422 acres protected	Completed
Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer Forestlands and Aquatic Habitat Ph 1	ML 2014, Ch. 256, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(c)	\$1,050,000	State Forest fee acquisition-420 acres protected; SNA fee acquisition-900 acres protection in partnership with SNA program.	Funds 99% expended; Expect completion fall 2016.
Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer Forestlands and Aquatic Habitat Ph 2	ML 2015, First Sp. Session, Ch. 2, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(c)	\$2,180,000 Leverage: \$50,000-\$100,000 anticipated	285 acres WMA optioned; 1,100 acres State Forest optioned	All funds allocated to optioned properties. Expect completion Late 2016/early 2017
MN Forests for the Future Ph.4	ML 2016, Ch. X, Art. 1, Sec.2, Subd. 3(e)	\$1,840,000	3,213 acres targeted for conservation easement protection. Project is underway.	Pre-appraisal work completed. Appraisal stage. Completion estimated during mid-2017
Forest Habitat Protection Revolving Account	ML 2016, C. X, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(h)	\$1,000,000	Several small 40/80 acre parcels currently being reviewed.	Currently identifying potential parcels for protection.

In Summary: \$47,479,000 OHF Funds received; \$12,500,000 leveraged funds; Over 211,000 acres forest and wetlands protected (\$285/acre protected-includes OHF + leveraged funds) with over 34 miles of trout streams and trout stream tributaries, over 135 miles of other streams and rivers, and over 130 miles of lakeshore. Every acre has public access for hunting and fishing. These protection efforts are consistent with our program goals of protecting large, intact forest habitat blocks that supports increased landscape connectivity, helps maintain water quality in lakes, rivers and streams, and supports diverse game and non-game wildlife species.

Minnesota Forests for the Future OHF Projects Completed/Pending/In Proress as of 8/2016

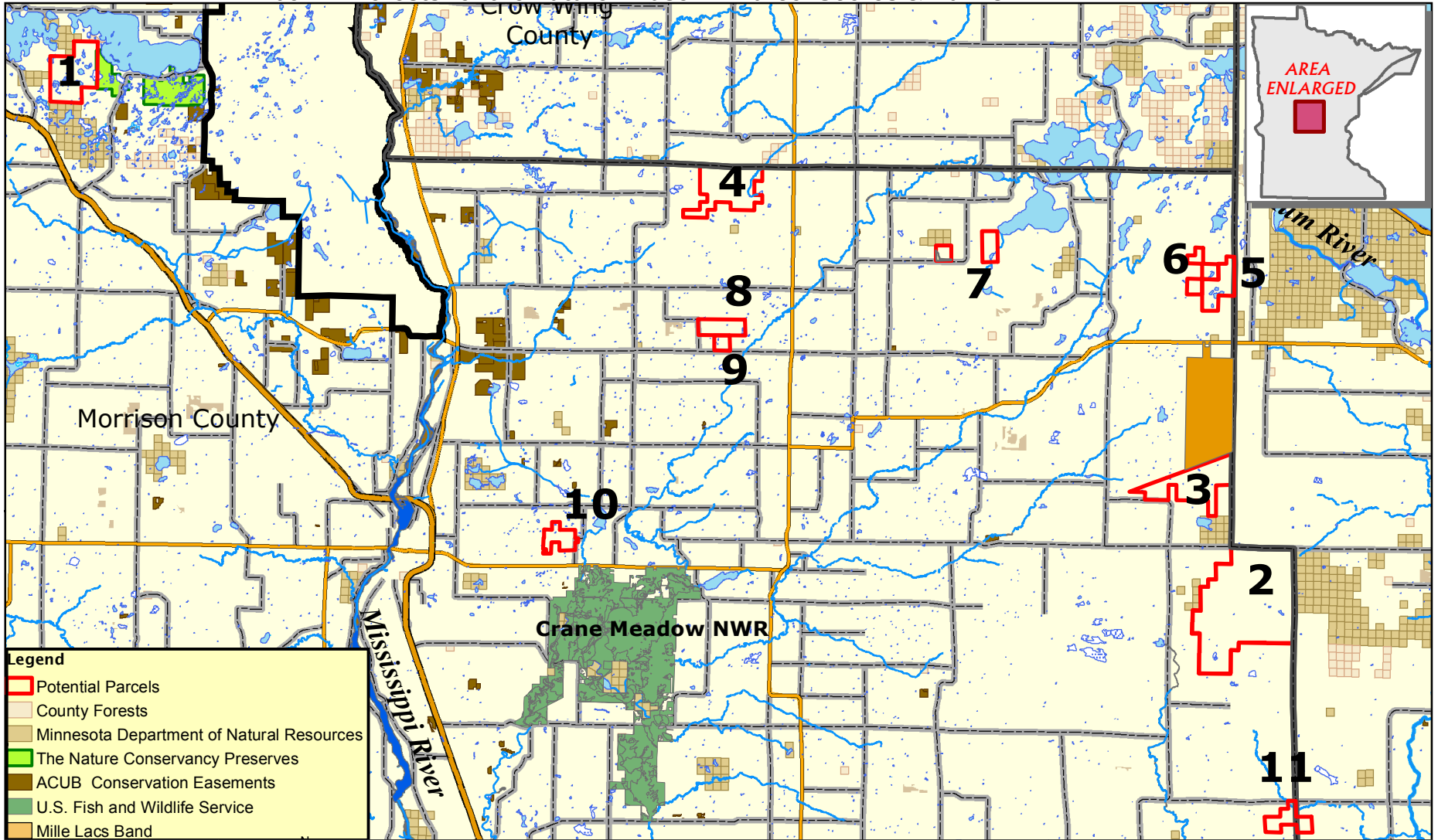


Minnesota Forests for the Future Program –Scoring Criteria

There are multiple criteria that are considered when scoring and ranking a parcel. The site must be considered in the context of all the criteria, not just a single criteria. Professional judgment is also invaluable in evaluating project suitability and assessing potential for a successful project.

Scoring Criteria-200 point total.		Possible Points	Points
Project Size		30	
• Small 20-100 acres	10	10	
• Medium 101-400 acres	15	15	
• Large 401-1000	20	20	
• Very Large 1000+	30	30	
Strategic Location		40	
• Adjacent to public land, within 1/2 mile of public land, or adjacent to other private or state conservation lands, provides access to public lands		20	
• Contributes to a corridor that links conservation lands.		10	
• Parcel is in high priority conservation area or contributes to goals of strategic conservation plans (for example: Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild and Rare).		10	
Ecological/ Habitat		60	
• Property has documented threatened or endangered species or other species in greatest conservation need.		10	
• Contains native plant communities and/or key habitats as documented by formal assessment, plan or strategy (sensitive shorelines, wild rice, sites of biological significance, old growth forest,).		20	
• Contains critical fish habitat or spawning areas, documented cold water fish species in lake or stream, or is part of a significant wetland complex.		10	
• Property is in a predominantly natural condition without significant developments or improvements or non-native vegetation.		10	
• Percent of forest cover		10	
Riparian/Watershed parcel details		30	
Combined feet of river/stream frontage and/or feet of lake shoreline frontage 3 points-1-100 feet, 7 points-101-500, 10 points-501-1000, 15 points 1001-2000+		15	
Watershed benefits: 1 benefit area - 3pts; 2 benefit areas - 7 pts; 3 benefit areas - 10 pts; 4 benefit areas - 15 pts		15	
Development risk or urgency		10	
• Is there a strong threat to the property that would result in parcelization and/or conversion: (consider: is it on the market, has it been platted, is the parcel developable, percent of property that could be developed, is infrastructure in place such as utilities to facilitate development).		10	
Additional considerations		30	
• Adjoining landowner application		10	
• Project has been developed in partnership with other interest groups or conservation entities.		5	
• Bonus for donated part or all of the easement value and/or match funds available 0-5% - 2pts; 6-10% - 5 points; 11-25% - 7 pts; 26%+ - 10pts.		10	
• Parcel has a current forest or wildlife management plan and/or landowner has demonstrated active management, restoration, and/or enhancement.		5	
TOTAL POINTS		200	

FA 05 MN Forests for the Future-Phase V - Parcel Scores & Ranks

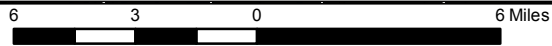


Legend

- Potential Parcels
- County Forests
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy Preserves
- ACUB Conservation Easements
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Mille Lacs Band

Minnesota Forests for the Future

	Parcel Number	Parcel 1	Parcel 2	Parcel 5	Parcel 4	Parcel 7	Parcel 3	Parcel 6	Parcel 10	Parcel 8	Parcel 9	Parcel 11
	Parcel Acres	1,478	6,206	695	1,676	480	1,905	440	440	480	440	520
	Parcel Rank	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
	Parcel Score	155	145	143	139	117	116	114	112	111	97	74



Map Created by Richard Peterson
MN DNR Forestry August 2016

Amanda Brazee

From: Wayne Ostlie <wayneostlie@minnesotalandtrust.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Mark Johnson; Sandy Smith; Joe Pavelko; Amanda Brazee
Subject: FA01 Carnelian Creek
Attachments: FA01 Carnelian Creek Memorandum to Council FINAL.pdf

Mark, Joe, Sandy and Amanda:

Attached please find a memorandum from the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County pertaining to the Carnelian Creek proposal (FA01) that addresses a number of items that were discussed during our hearing. Please provide this to the Council members for their review.

Should Council members have additional questions or need additional information, they can reach out to me directly.

Thanks for all of your assistance!

Wayne

--

Wayne Ostlie
Director of Land Protection
Minnesota Land Trust
2356 University Ave W., Suite 240
St. Paul, MN 55114

Office: (651) 917-6292
Cell: (651) 894-3870
wostlie@mnland.org
www.mnland.org

Protecting the places you treasure...forever.





MINNESOTA LAND TRUST

To: LSOHC Council Chair Anderson and Council Members

From: Minnesota Land Trust & Washington County

Date: September 1, 2016

Re: FA01 Carnelian Creek Corridor

The Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County, as project sponsors for FA01 Carnelian Creek Conservation Corridor, thank LSOHC members for the opportunity to present and discuss the merits of the project at hearings last week. The project is one of the largest and most significant to come before the Council in the Twin Cities Metro region in recent years and we have before us the opportunity to afford lasting conservation to this important resource.

Interest in the project by the Council translated into a healthy discussion of the proposal at the hearing. A number of questions arose during the course of the hearing for which we provide responses below in our desire to clarify both the particulars of the project itself and the process by which we have been moving forward. The details of the project are put forward below for your review.

1) OWNERSHIP

The property ownership presents a unique opportunity for the Minnesota Land Trust, Washington County and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, as the property to be protected by the conservation easement is currently at risk for potential conversion, which could severely impact the property's significant wildlife habitat. Below is a description of the current and future ownership of the area to be protected.

- Warner Nature Center – Owned in fee title by the Manitou Fund. The Manitou Fund was established in 1966 and has funded dozens of Minnesota charities and institutions, including the Minnesota Zoo, the Walker Art Center, the Guthrie Theater, the YMCA and many others. It has funded the Warner Nature Center operations since 1969. Manitou Fund manages the Nature Center in partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota. 588 acres of the property are targeted for conservation easement through this proposal.
- Wilder Forest – Owned by the Amherst J. Wilder Foundation, which was established in 1942. For decades Wilder Forest has been maintained in its natural state with minimal impact to its habitat. However, circumstances have now changed. The Wilder Foundation has decided to focus its resources on its primary mission of serving the inner-city needs of St. Paul, and is now in the process of divesting of its holdings in Washington County, thereby putting the Wilder Forest habitat at risk. 147 acres of the existing Wilder property are targeted for conservation easement through this proposal.

The Manitou Fund has obtained an option to purchase the entirety of those holdings contingent upon a conservation easement being exercised on the significant wildlife habitat portions of both properties. Prior to the conservation easement, the Manitou Fund will purchase the Wilder Property and consolidate it with the Warner Nature Center property into one non-profit ownership (the Warner Nature Foundation). The easement will be completed with the Warner Nature Foundation whose mission will be specifically dedicated to the protection, restoration and long-term management of the lakes and forests on the property and to nature center operations.

Without the conservation easement, Manitou Fund will be unable to exercise its option to acquire Wilder Forest. This in turn may result in development of the Wilder Forest, severely impacting the property's natural habitat. It could also potentially result in incompatible uses adjoining the Warner Nature Center which could compromise the quality of the Nature Center's lakes and forest habitat. Therefore this is a timely and urgent project to ensure that the greater habitat complex for Fish, Game and Wildlife stays intact.

The conservation easement will be held jointly by the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County. The Land Trust will be responsible for annual monitoring of the easement. Enforcement obligations will be held by both parties.

2) PROPERTY TO BE PROTECTED

Washington County, Minnesota Land Trust, and Manitou Fund have been in discussions over the past 8 months to move the protection plan for this property from concept and position it to the extent possible as a final plan prior to LSOHC hearings. The original proposal put forward a general easement boundary that captured the general scope of proposed activity agreed to by the parties at the time of submission; procurement of additional information, discussions with Manitou Fund, and input from LSOHC Council members prior to the hearings resulted in a more refined map of the proposed easement boundary.

This refined map was submitted along with other pertinent information for use at the hearing and is again attached. Its boundaries were modified to carve out all concentrations of buildings and infrastructure (facilities at Wilder Forest and Warner Nature Center, and the May Farm), and expansion of the easement eastward to fully connect and realize a protected habitat corridor to the St. Croix River. As described below, the landowners are willing (at their cost) to restore this important habitat connector, making the wildlife benefits of this project even greater.

This refinement of easement boundary is consistent with the original proposal submission which represented that the easement would be on 735 acres and the buildings would be excluded. This refinement is typical in the process of finalizing projects with landowners. It is through this process that we ensure that the easement maximizes the protection of habitat for the associated wildlife and that we are responsive to input from the Council.

3) HUNTING

Although not a requirement of a conservation easement under the constitutional language, controlled hunting has long been a component of Warner Nature Center operations over its history. Managed deer hunts via archery have been a standard component of the facility's deer management plan. Moreover, the Nature Center has included youth hunting as an element in its curricula in the past and is exploring hunting opportunities which are compatible with the Nature Center operations for inclusion in its future

programming. In addition to direct hunts, Warner Nature Center has hosted firearms safety courses, “women and hunting” courses and other hunting-related education sessions, exposing thousands of Metro-area participants to hunting and firearms safety.

4) FISHING

The Warner Nature Center has exposed thousands of kids from throughout the Twin Cities Metro to the world of fish and fishing through its programming. For many of these youth, this is a first-time exposure that serves to broaden their experiences with and ignite passion for the outdoor world.

The three lakes that will be protected through easement are pristine, invasive-free lakes. The fishing curricula ensures that these freshwater resources are not impacted through the unintentional introduction of aquatic invasive species. Moreover, the fact that these are invasive-free lakes provides a launching point in the curricula for talking about the impacts of aquatic invasive species and the need to protect Minnesota’s waters.

5) TRAILS

Approximately 10 miles of trails are currently found within proposed easement area. It should be emphasized from the outset that there are no paved trails within the easement area and recreational ATV use will not be permitted anywhere w/in the easement area. The extent of the current trail system will not be expanded upon going forward. The nature and extent of these trails is as follows (using David Hartwell’s proposed definitions):

- a. Unimproved Trails – Account for approximately 90% of all trails within the easement area. These are largely single-file dirt foot paths (3-5 feet in width) with sparse vegetation and resemble deer trails. About 1/3 of the total in this category are used predominantly in the winter for cross country skiing and snow shoeing. A photo of this type of trail is attached.

Another 2% of the trail system is either covered in wood chips (to traverse wet areas or those prone to erosion) or is mowed (in prairie restoration area).

Finally, two short gravel handicapped trails of 460 feet in total length are used for wheelchair access to natural features and program structures in close proximity to the Warner Nature Center main buildings.

- b. Maintenance Roads and Trails
Approximately 4% of the trails in the easement area are of this type, represented by a single gravel service road that connects Warner Nature Center facilities to the May Farm through the center of the property. This is a minimal width farm road with gravel surface that is used for facilities maintenance and emergency access. It is also used for foot traffic to the lake.

Another 4% of the trail system is classified as a dirt maintenance trail. Called the “Fire Break Trail”, the trail provides for habitat management and emergency access to areas in the north part of the easement area. For example, it became a critical access for fire fighters battling a forest fire on the property in 2013.

- c. Hard-Surface Trails
No hard-surface trails are located within the easement area.

Historic trails on the Wilder portion of the easement area are mapped and tallied as part of the total trail network as described. However, they have not been managed since Wilder ceased operations of their facility and have not been maintained. The Warner Nature Center will be reviewing the trail system on the Wilder parcel and ascertain to what extent those trails factor into the long-term education and land management goals of the property. Unnecessary trails will be closed permanently.

Easement terms will restrict the use of these trails for non-motorized purposes only, with the exception of use for facilities maintenance, habitat management, ADA compliance, property inspection or emergency purposes.

Finally, more than 90% of the trails are narrow, non-motorized, low-impact forest paths (3-5 feet in width) which are minimally maintained. While the trail map provided at the hearings looks “busy” with trails, we encourage Council members to consider the large scale of the property when looking at this small map. Not only will these trails serve as an introduction to many Metro-area youth to the great outdoors, they are important for easement monitoring and land management purposes.



Typical forest trail at Warner Nature Center.



Typical mowed trail in restored prairie at Warner Nature Center.

6) CONSERVATION PLAN

The Carnelian Creek Corridor, a priority conservation area of Washington County's Land and Legacy Conservation Program, is the long-term focus of this program. This nearly 3,000 acre conservation area extends from the Big Marine Regional Park on Big Marine Lake southeast through the proposed Wilder/Warner easement area to Square and Big Carnelian lakes.

The Warner and Wilder parcels together form the central core of the corridor, and are the heart of the proposal. This 735-acre proposed easement area will not only permanently protect a high quality core forest block and three pristine lakes in their entirety, but will also complete a corridor of protected lands that extends east to the St. Croix River.

Once this large core habitat "foundation" is established, Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust anticipate expanding on this investment to protect and restore more land within the Carnelian Creek Corridor and adjacent priority conservation areas identified in the Washington County Land and Legacy Conservation Program (e.g., Tanglewood and Twin Lakes Woods). In all, we hope to protect and restore at least 1,500 acres within this greater conservation area, making it one of the largest connected blocks of wildlife habitat in the Metro area.

7) MATCH

Together, Washington County and landowner are committing 50% of the necessary funds (approximately \$5M in cash and donated value) to secure the proposed conservation easement.

8) WILDLIFE VALUE

The proposed easement area captures a large area of high quality red oak/pin oak forest (as ranked by the Minnesota DNR) and approximately 10 miles of shoreline along three pristine lakes (ranked 'A' in terms of water quality and invasive-free). The proposed easement encompasses one of the largest undeveloped forests in the greater Twin Cities area; portions of the forest contain old growth trees in excess of 120 years in age.

The extent and quality of the forest within the proposed easement area, coupled with its connection to natural lands around it, provide for a broad array of state-rare species and those uncommon in the Metro region. Blanding's turtle, fisher, bobcat, black bear and golden eagle occur on the property. Bald eagles, Trumpeter Swans, loons, and Sandhill cranes regularly nest on Terrapin Lake.

The three lakes are among the most pristine shallow lakes in this region of the state of Minnesota, providing for unique fisheries in the Metro. The easement area also captures a unique bog. Former agricultural lands are slated for or are already undergoing prairie restoration to further enhance the wildlife values of the property.

There were several concerns by Council members that this project constitutes a "park" project. Washington County and other conservation entities have explored all options for protecting this important habitat, including fee-title ownership. However, this process has concluded that none of the other protection options such as converting it to a county park were desirable—and could even be detrimental—for protection this great habitat. As such, this project is dedicated to wildlife habitat outcomes through a conservation easement versus a public park project.

9) LONG TERM

Like all conservation easements, this easement will be perpetual in nature, the terms running with the land in perpetuity as ownership transfers throughout time. The Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County will co-hold the easement, with the Land Trust responsible for annual monitoring of the easement terms. The easement and monitoring protocols will all be based on the Minnesota Land Trust's national land trust accreditation standards.

10) EASEMENT TERMS

While easements are typically drafted once funding decisions are known, the Land Trust, Washington County and Manitou Fund are in general agreements on the following easement terms:

- a. USES: The easement will prohibit industrial, residential or commercial uses of the property and prohibit subdivision of the property for any of these purposes. The easement would allow low impact nature education activities which are compatible with the wildlife habitat to continue.

- b. **BUILDINGS:** The easement will exclude as much infrastructure (buildings, roads, etc.) from the easement area as possible. Both Warner Nature Center headquarters on the west side and the old Concordia Language Village on the east are excluded from the easement area, as is the May Farm and a parking 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.
- c. **ROADS AND PARKING:** The easement area contains one narrow gravel service road within the easement area, connecting Warner Nature Center headquarters to the May farm site on the east edge of the property. The goal will be to prohibit 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.
- d. **TRAILS:** The easement area excludes the state's Gateway Trail. A system of unimproved forest paths used for nature education and property management exists on the property (see above). These existing trails are low-maintenance, natural surface trails which are compatible with the habitat conservation goals of the property. No recreational motorized vehicle use (ATVs or snowmobiles) will be allowed on the property. No expansion of the current extent of the trail system will be allowed.
- e. **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. Uses that degrade or negatively impact the conservation values of the property (logging, etc.) will not be allowed. Finally, this project will benefit from having a non-profit land owner/manager whose mission and values align with the habitat conservation goals of the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the easement holders.

11) RESTORATION

The landowner has committed to the retirement and restoration of a 35-acre portion of the easement area that is now in row-crop agriculture. This is a significant benefit which the landowner will be contributing to the overall project. This restored area will fill in the "missing link" in a larger significant habitat corridor that extends all the way to the St. Croix River.

Amanda Brazee

From: Wayne Ostlie <wayneostlie@minnesotalandtrust.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 2:58 PM
To: Mark Johnson; Joe Pavelko; Sandy Smith; Amanda Brazee
Subject: FA04 - Critical Shorelands 4
Attachments: FA04 Critical Shoreline Conservation 4.pdf

Mark, Joe, Sandy, and Amanda:

Please find attached a packet of information pertaining to our Critical Shorelands 4 proposal that includes a number of items requested by Council members:

1. A framework for evaluation and ranking of parcels for inclusion into the program, and a table that prioritizes parcels in this year's proposal based on that evaluation; and
2. A summary of the outcomes of the Critical Shoreland program by grant for each of the previous 3 allocations.

Please provide this to the Council members for their review. I am available to answer any additional questions that Council members might have related to this grant.

Best,

Wayne

--

Wayne Ostlie
Director of Land Protection
Minnesota Land Trust
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Cell: (651) 894-3870

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www.mnland.org

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Critical Shoreline Conservation Easements Evaluation and Prioritization

Projects proposed for consideration under the Minnesota Land Trust’s Critical Shorelines Protection Program are evaluated based on the following criteria and are sorted into four categories for subsequent action:

- Tier 1:** Immediate action is recommended
- Tier 2:** Action is recommended
- Tier 3:** Action is not recommended at this time; hold for future evaluation
- Tier 4:** No action is recommended, minimum criteria for participation is not met.

Tier 1 and 2 Projects qualify for inclusion on parcels lists and for project development activity. Tier 3 projects are reviewed annually to determine if circumstances have changed sufficiently to require a reassessment. Tier 4 projects fall below minimum criteria and no follow-up is needed.

Evaluation Criteria – Each project is assessed relative to the following criteria. Criteria receive a rating of High (H), Moderate (M), or Below Threshold (B) based on meeting or failing to meet the standards as described. Projects receiving “H” ratings for all criteria are assigned to Tier 1. Projects receiving a mix of “H” and “M” ratings are generally assigned to Tier 2. Projects receiving a rating of “M” for Readiness and Urgency are assigned to Tier 3. Any project receiving a “B” ranking for any criteria is assigned to Tier 4.

Criteria	Rating
1. Parcel Size and Quality: Extent and condition of habitat features on the parcel and degree to which the parcel meets the eligibility requirements of the program. Habitat features evaluated include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity significance ranking, • Quality and amount of native plant communities, • Presence of species of greatest conservation need, • Presence and amount of sensitive shoreline or sensitive shorelands, • Presence and amount of key spawning or nursery habitat, • Migratory waterfowl stopover habitat quality and amount, • Sensitivity to disturbance, and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree to which the size of the parcel and the amount of habitat present contributes to achieving significant conservation outcomes on a public waters lake or stream. 	
2.	<p>Landscape Context: Degree to which conservation of the parcel contributes to habitat protection goals at local, regional, and statewide scales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the parcel contribute to the protection of a high priority complex of ecologically-significant lands? To what extent does the parcel build on an existing complex of protected lands or contribute to protection of habitat in public ownership or other permanent conservation status? To what extent is the parcel a high priority target for protection as identified in a conservation action plan? 	
3.	<p>Return on Investment: Relative valuation of the conservation gains achieved by protection of the property versus the costs in direct expenditures and personnel resources needed to complete the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the anticipated cost of the easement (price per acre), inclusive of donation or leverage? Could we achieve much greater conservation gains elsewhere? Can we successfully monitor and defend the CE? 	
4.	<p>Readiness and Urgency: Degree to which the owner is ready to move forward and immediacy of threats to conservation values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the property on the market or being prepared for sale? Is it in an area of active sales or potential impacts such as farming? Does the landowner have agreement with all ownership parties? What is the timeline and level of commitment of the landowner? Are there title or other issues which could delay closing? 	

Critical Shoreland 4 - Parcel Prioritization

Parcel Name	Acres	Tier
Rainy Lake	28	1
Lake Superior 3	66	1
Skunk Creek	880	1
Burntside Lake	90	1
King Lake	230	1
Little Fork River	165	1
Low Lake	125	1
Thompson Lake1	45	1
Lake Superior 1	23	2
Chippewa Forest	86	2
Paul Bunyan State Forest	420	2
Lake Superior 2	5	2
Long Lake	400	2
Silver Creek	2000	2
Burntside River 1	205	2
Burntside River 2	205	2
Burntside River 3	39	2
Lake Vermillion Pine Island	33	2
Pelican River	93	2
Thompson Lake 2	10	2

Minnesota Land Trust Critical Shoreland Program: Results to Date (Thru 8/22/16)

Grant Phase	Grant Award	Leverage		Protected Acres	
		Proposed	Actual	<i>Proposed</i>	<i>Actual</i>
2010 Phase 1 (Completed)	\$ 816,000	None	\$ 2,182,300	1,000	1,330
2013 Phase 2 (Completed)	\$ 820,000	None	\$ 995,080*	700	911
2015 Phase 3 (In Progress)	\$ 1,690,000	None	\$ 369,900	1,000	214
2017 Phase 4 (Proposed)	\$ 5,226,000	\$ 748,000	NA	1000	0

* Two donated easements are without appraisals; leverage values for these were based on a conservative easement value estimate of 60% assessed value of the land.

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fiscal Year 2018 / ML 2017 Request for Funding



Date: September 01, 2016

Program or Project Title: Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase III (HA04)

Funds Requested: \$6,445,000

Manager's Name: Lindsey Ketchel
Title: Executive Director
Organization: Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
Address: P.O. Box 455
City: Hackensack, MN 56452
Office Number: 218-675-5773
Mobile Number: 907-209-5414
Email: lindseyk@leechlakewatershed.org

County Locations: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard.

Regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust will protect high priority critical fish habitat and the surrounding watersheds on 38 tullibee "refuge" lakes by securing conservation easements and fee title acquisitions. We will permanently protect approximately 1,343 acres. If a lake's watershed has less than 25% land disturbance the lake has a high probability to maintain clean water and healthy lake ecosystem. State of Minnesota reports indicate this region could see 64% population growth by 2030. Protecting key parcels will help sustain both recreational and sport fisheries in North Central Minnesota.

Design and scope of work:

Sustaining a strong angling heritage revolves largely around protecting fisheries habitat. Resurging shoreland development pressures and looming climate changes are a direct threat to our lakes ecology. This project will focus on fisheries habitat protection on lakes that have the best biological integrity for a sustained sport fishery. Our protection efforts are focused on Tullibee (aka cisco) a preferred forage fish of walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and lake trout. They require cold, well oxygenated waters, a condition most common in lakes with deep water and healthy watersheds. Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as the primary "refuge lakes" for tullibee that need protection. We are targeting thirty-eight (38) of these lakes located in Hubbard, Crow-Wing, Cass and Aitkin counties. Many are Minnesota's premier recreational lakes.

Fisheries research has shown that healthy watersheds with intact forest are fundamental to good fish habitat. Conservation Easements will move 3 Tullibee refuge lakes to protected class and 6 lakes close to the protection threshold. We analyzed our targeted lakes and prioritized landowner parcels based on program criteria which include sensitive shoreland, type of wetlands, and proximity to an inlet or outlet. Due to the level of interest in the program, we are applying for a Phase III of this effort. To ensure the best conservation return on the state's investment, landowner willingness to donate a portion of the easement value will be a key component of the parcels evaluation. The conservation easement partners will include County Soil & Water Districts, MNDNR Fisheries, Minnesota Land Trust and LLAWF. LLAWF is going through Land Trust Alliance accreditation, which could result in expansion of our current role as grant

administrator, landowner outreach and technical support to include holding conservation easements. LLAWF & MLT will work to ensure appropriate staffing levels to execute the grant.

In 2016 MNDNR finalized their Fisheries Management Plan for Leech Lake. Using nearshore habitat inventory and muskellunge spawning habitat assessment, area fisheries biologists and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe have identified Agency Bay (oligotrophic) as a key acquisition to protect spawning areas for walleye and muskellunge. We seek funds to strategically acquire 19.50 acres that bordered Leech Lake Band and U.S. Forest Service to protect this high quality aquatic habitat and approximately 3,200 feet of shoreland that would protect the third largest lake in Minnesota. MNDNR internal score on the proposed AMA is extremely high at 34. The Leech Lake Association's Lake Management Plan supports protecting these types of lands. The land would be managed like a MNDNR Aquatic Management Area and held in trust by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The parcel will be open to the public for hunting and recreation.

Per the MNDNR Fish Habitat Plan 2013, the quality of nearshore fish habitat in lakes is determined largely by shoreland disturbance, impacting water quality, oxygen levels, and nutrient content. Lakeshore development decreases a lake's ability to function as a healthy ecosystem.

Which sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are applicable to this project:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes

Which other plans are addressed in this proposal:

- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- Long Range Plan for Muskellunge and Large Northern Pike Management Through 2020

Describe how your program will advance the indicators identified in the plans selected:

Protection of critical near shore parcels, riparian areas and key forested parcels will be tracked by analyzing the land surface of the watershed. If the tullibee "refuge" lake is less than 25% disturbed by development or intensive land use and 75% of the land area of the watershed is permanently protected, these lakes can generally be assured to maintain high water quality that will support tullibee and resiliency against climate change. Our fee title acquisition on Leech Lake will help implement the long range plan for muskellunge which states native waters or stocked waters with documented natural reproduction will receive the highest priority for protection. The goal is to maintain critical habitat so that natural or introduced muskellunge populations are preserved and this acquisition meets those goals. Additionally the MN DNR AMA Plan identifies north central lakes as the priority focus for AMA's.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal:

Northern Forest:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

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:

Our Clean Water Critical Habitat program is focused on protecting some of the most important recreational and sport fisheries lakes in Minnesota and helps preserve this State's proud angler heritage. When many residents endorsed the Legacy act they indicated a strong interest in seeing lakes protected. With over 5,400 recreational fishing lakes it is extremely difficult to prioritize which lakes to protect. By focusing on Tullibee "refuge" lakes our efforts are targeted and achievable. Over the next fifteen years our program will move 38 targeted cold water lakes into a protective class by protecting 75% of the watershed from development. In partnerships with SWCD, BWSR, MNDNR and WRAPS and County water plans, we will increase the number of acres enrolled in forest management plans, conservation easements, SFIA lands and fee title acquisitions. These efforts will protect some of the most important recreational lakes in Minnesota from degradation.

Additionally, during our landowner enrollment in the conservation easement program it became very apparent that many landowners are willing to donate easements, bequest their land to MNDNR or take modest compensation to protect this region. Our program is cultivating a high conservation ethic and developing effective tools for landowners to protect their land and waters. It is also creating a great shared responsibility essential to maximizing our investment to achieve our targeted protection goals.

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:

Timothy Cross and Peter Jacobson "Landscape factors influencing lake phosphorus concentrations across Minnesota" white paper determined coldwater fish communities are especially vulnerable to eutrophication from increased phosphorus concentrations. Decreases in hypolimnetic oxygen concentrations have direct negative effects on fish that physiologically require (Tullibee) oxygenated cold water to survive, grow and reproduce. Protection is viewed as the most cost effective strategy when applied to watersheds where human activities have not already significantly elevated phosphorus levels.

Peter Jacobson and Mike Duval, "Protecting Watershed of Minnesota Lakes with Private Forest Conservation Easements: A Suggested Strategy", stated that protecting the forests in these watersheds from development is critical for maintaining water quality in these lakes. While large areas of land in forested portions are under public ownership, a considerable amount is also owned by private individuals in some of our most critical lake watersheds. These parcels are increasingly being "split up" and sold. Working forest easements allow sustainable timber harvest, but protect the land from further development. Modeling by MN DNR Fisheries research unit suggests that total phosphorus concentrations remain near natural background levels when less than 25% of the lakes watershed is disturbed. The tullibee "refuge" lakes have watersheds with less than 25% disturbed land uses and are good candidates for protection. The report referenced high priority lakes could include very deep lakes with exceptional water quality and support coldwater fish populations like tullibee.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as the primary "refuge lakes" for tullibee. We focused our protection efforts of the highest quality tullibee lakes that will require modest to moderate levels of land protection to achieve 75% protection levels. Protecting the habitats of tullibee "refuge" lakes along the shoreline and surrounding forest lands is essential to a sustained sport fishery.

One "Long Range Plan for Muskellunge 2020" objective is to maintain critical habitat so that natural and introduced muskellunge populations are preserved. Protecting muskellunge spawning and nursery habitats by purchasing aquatic management areas on native waters or stocked waters with documented natural reproduction would receive the highest priority.

How does the proposal address habitats that have significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, and/or threatened or endangered species, and list targeted species:

Tullibee (aka cisco) is the preferred forage fish for walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and lake trout. They require cold, well oxygenated waters - a condition most common in lakes with deep water and healthy watersheds. Tullibee populations are the "canary in the coalmine" for three significant threats to Minnesota's sport fisheries: shoreland development, watershed health and climate warming. Deep, cold water lakes with high quality, well-oxygenated waters and natural, undisturbed land cover along the shorelines and within their watersheds will have the best chance to sustain tullibee populations in the face of these threats and will serve as a "refuge" for the tullibee if annual temperatures increase.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries research studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as primary "refuge lakes" for tullibee that need protection. Thirty eight (38) of these lakes representing 58% of the designated "refuge" lakes are located in Crow Wing, Aitkin, Cass and Hubbard counties. These lakes are premier recreational and sport fishery lakes. Fisheries research has shown that healthy watersheds with intact forest are fundamental to good fish habitat. MN DNR Fisheries Habitat Plan, states near shore fish habitat affected by shoreland disturbance can impact fisheries. Maintaining good water quality is critical to sustaining tullibees as determined by the waters oxygen level and nutrient content. Lakeshore development decreases a lakes ability to function as a healthy ecosystem for sport fish and their forage, due to increased runoff, but also through physical alternation by lakeshore owners.

Fisheries Management Plan for Leech Lake, 2016-2020 indicates protection of key spawning areas from development is important to supporting self-sustaining walleye and muskie populations. With the recent challenges at Mille Lacs Lake, Leech Lake has a diversity of shoreland and substrate, as well as its extensive littoral zone that, if protected, provides excellent spawning and nursery habitats for a number of species. Using limited near shore habitat inventory and muskellunge spawning habitat assessments, area fisheries staff has identified key spawning areas to protect. A Key area named "Two Points" is currently on the market and will be fully developed if conservation action does not preclude it.

Identify indicator species and associated quantities this habitat will typically support:

The information below provides general averages for tullibee in Minnesota. These averages are generated from available data and published sources, and do not capture the variability inherent in populations of fish. Natural populations, including healthy populations with good habitat, vary among locations, and also rise and fall within lakes and rivers. Most fish surveys conducted by DNR produce an index of abundance (catch per unit effort) rather than a population estimate. As per MNDNR provided table here is the following detailed information - Aquatic system: Tullibee lakes: Indicator: Tullibee: Ave number or biomass NA; Other criteria: Sampling does not provide a reliable number of individuals, but assessment netting provides an indicator of tullibee presence, and the presence of multiple year classes provides evidence that tullibee are continuing to reproduce.

Outcomes:

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *Private shoreline habitat and forested parcels totaling approximately 1300 acres will be permanently protected from development and fragmentation. 19.55 acres will protect sensitive shoreland and spawn area for muskellunge and walleye on Leech Lake and maintain high biological integrity. Riparian forest lands under easement will maintain healthy habitat complexes for upland and aquatic species; forest cover will enhance water quality habitat for tullibee lakes. Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation will be attained through Fee-Title acquisition open to public for hunting and fishing. Conservation easement properties will protect fish habitat to insure high quality fishing opportunities.*

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

LLAWF and MLT are long standing conservation organizations that do not depend on Outdoor Heritage Funds to sustain or maintain our work. The majority of financial support for both LLAWF and MLT must be raised on an annual basis. The work in this proposal allows both organizations to enhance and accelerate ongoing conservation efforts in North Central Minnesota; these grant funds will not substitute for or supplant other funding sources.

The fee-title acquisition will be owned and managed by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. As such it will be permanently protected and maintained according to DNR AMA standards and procedures for public land. The Minnesota Land Trust or LLAWF will hold the conservation easements acquired. The land protected through these conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation.

LLAWF will be applying for accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission following these same standards and practices in 2017

Explain the things you will do in the future to maintain project outcomes:

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2017 and beyond	other state and local funds	Leech Lake Band will maintain lands		
2017 and beyond	Outdoor Heritage Fund and LLAWF/MLT funds	secure easements and associated documents, include habitat management plans where appropriate	establish individual monitoring plans, annually monitor easements	Enforce easements through stewardship program as necessary

What is the degree of timing/opportunistic urgency and why it is necessary to spend public money for this work as soon as possible:

The next ten years are a critical window of opportunity to protect some of the "best of the best" sport fishery lakes in Minnesota. While recent economic slowed shoreland development, realtors now report a resurgence of shoreland property sales. Growth will be driven by baby boomers and technology that allows landowners to live, work and play from the same location. With land values rising in the region, now is the time to protect these tullibee "refugee" lakes and maximize the effectiveness of this fisheries habitat protection project. We are building considerable momentum and with our partnership with organizations like The Nature Conservancy and North Central Roundtable participants we believe these synergistic efforts will increase leveraging and maximize results.

How does this proposal include leverage in funds or other effort to supplement any OHF appropriation:

Our LCCMR grant "Multi-benefit Watershed Scale Conservation on North Central Lakes" is a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of RIM Conservation Easements in a watershed protection context. RIM easements are formula based on bare land while our proposal easements are based on appraisal that includes entire parcels.

Lakes selected in the pilot overlap with our targeted lakes. These easements should result in an increase of protected lands on our targeted lakes and help move these lakes to a 75% protection level. Additionally landowner outreach overlaps with the tullibee "refuge" lakes. This allows us to increase the level of landowner engagement including developing targeted lake maps, mailings, workshops and lake association presentations. Through our landowner outreach efforts we have helped a number of landowners enroll in other conservation easement projects funded by OHF in North Central region this year.

Landowner donation of conservation values has resulted in considerable leverage of match and allowed us to maximize LSOHC funds.

In 2014 LLAWF and Roosevelt Lake Association conducted a community fundraiser for our Woods Bay fee title acquisition. We will continue this model of fundraising support with Ponto and Leech lakes.

Relationship to other funds:

- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Contract with Cass County partnership with MPCA to draft Leech Lake River WRAP

Describe the relationship of the funds:

In 2010 LLAWF helped implement an LCCMR grant titled “Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in Cass County”. The project was focused on identifying landowners along sensitive Shoreland and recruiting landowners to donate conservation easements. This grant developed effective tools to conduct targeted landowner outreach using lake maps and lake association contacts.

In 2015 we were awarded a second LCCMR grant titled “Multi-benefit Watershed Scale Conservation on North Central Lakes”. This pilot will evaluate the effectiveness of RIM conservation easements in a watershed protection context. Landowner interest in this project will help gauge whether BWSR should consider developing a statewide program aimed at shoreland and watershed protection. This program will help BWSR and its partners understand whether landowners are willing to accept less than the standard RIM rates set by the BWSR Board. All landowner outreach related to this pilot will complement and support our current and proposed Phase III OHF grant.

LLAWF has been contracted by Cass County to help implement a MPCA Clean Water Fund grant for the Leech Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Project (WRAP). When completed in 2016, this WRAP will be one of the first protection-oriented WRAPS in the state. The WRAP identified lakes and streams that are decreasing in water quality, demonstrate high sustainability to increases in phosphorus and engaged the residents on protective efforts to keep our water healthy.

Describe the source and amount of non-OHF money spent for this work in the past:

Appropriation Year	Source	Amount
ML 2015	ENRTF	30,000
ML 2010	ENRTF	76,200

Activity Details

Requirements:

If funded, this proposal will meet all applicable criteria set forth in MS 97A.056 - **Yes**

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

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

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

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program - **No**

Land Use:

Will there be planting of corn or any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program - **No**

Is this land currently open for hunting and fishing - **No**

Will the land be open for hunting and fishing after completion - **Yes**

Fee Title acquisition will be managed under MNDNR AMA guidelines. The parcel will be open to fishing and hunting as per Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe ordinances that allow all non-tribal members to hunt on their land per MNDNR hunting regulations. No fee's will be charged to users.

Will the eased land be open for public use - **No**

Are there currently trails or roads on any of the acquisitions on the parcel list - **Yes**

Describe the types of trails or roads and the allowable uses:

Currently there are informal walking paths and trails on the property. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will maintain the trails for walking. No motorized vehicles will be permitted. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will investigate if the township will support the decommissioning of the road. If successful the road will be converted to a walking path.

Landowners who place a conservation easements, which often have trails, roads and paths on them typically are allowed to use Motorized vehicles are typically allow landowners to use motorized vehicles on their property if use does not impact the conservation values of the property.

Will the trails or roads remain and uses continue to be allowed after OHF acquisition - **Yes**

How will maintenance and monitoring be accomplished:

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe as owners will maintain all existing natural features, maintain natural shoreland that will prevent erosion from sending sediment into the water. Walking trail to lakeshore will be maintained by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa will work in consultation with local MNDNR fisheries staff to develop an aquatic management area management plan. Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation will monitor the lands and report to LSOHC.

Trails are included within the baseline report written for each easement, and subsequently monitored annually to ensure no expansion of the road/trail system, no erosion, etc. (i.e., compliance). We enforce violations if they occur.

Will new trails or roads be developed as a result of the OHF acquisition - **No**

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Fee Title acquisition of 19 acres on Leech Lake, convey to Leech Lake Band	3/1/2018
Manage, monitor and enforce conservation easements	ongoing in perpetuity
Landowner outreach, consultation, technical assistance and easement preparation	ongoing through June 2019
Protect 1300 acres on targeted riparian parcels and forested watershed parcels	June 30, 2019

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$6,445,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

BudgetName	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$241,000	\$0		\$241,000
Contracts	\$124,000	\$0		\$124,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$860,000	\$130,000		\$990,000
Easement Acquisition	\$4,750,000	\$950,000	Land Owners	\$5,700,000
Easement Stewardship	\$180,000	\$0		\$180,000
Travel	\$15,000	\$0		\$15,000
Professional Services	\$187,000	\$0		\$187,000
Direct Support Services	\$78,000	\$55,000	MLT operational match	\$133,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$6,445,000	\$1,135,000	-	\$7,580,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Legal	0.66	3.00	\$135,000	\$0		\$135,000
LLAWF - Fee Title	0.10	2.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
LLAWF ADMIN and Program Support	0.05	3.00	\$17,000	\$0		\$17,000
LLAWF Conservation	0.20	3.00	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Total	1.01	11.00	\$241,000	\$0	-	\$241,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$135,000	\$0		\$135,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust	\$54,000	\$0		\$54,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Land Trust	\$4,750,000	\$950,000	Land Owners	\$5,700,000
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$180,000	\$0		\$180,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$167,000	\$0		\$167,000
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$55,000	\$55,000	MLT operational match	\$110,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$5,351,000	\$1,005,000	-	\$6,356,000

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
MLT Legal	0.66	3.00	\$135,000	\$0		\$135,000
Total	0.66	3.00	\$135,000	\$0	-	\$135,000

BudgetName	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$106,000	\$0		\$106,000
Contracts	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$70,000	\$0		\$70,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$0	\$0		\$0

Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$860,000	\$130,000		\$990,000
Easement Acquisition	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Professional Services	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$20,000	\$0		\$20,000
Direct Support Services	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$23,000	\$0		\$23,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
Capital Equipment	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$5,000	\$0		\$5,000
DNR IDP	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total		\$1,094,000	\$130,000		\$1,224,000

Personnel - Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
LLAWF - Fee Title	0.10	2.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
LLAWF ADMIN and Program Support	0.05	3.00	\$17,000	\$0		\$17,000
LLAWF Conservation	0.20	3.00	\$80,000	\$0		\$80,000
Total	0.35	8.00	\$106,000	\$0		\$106,000

Amount of Request: \$6,445,000
Amount of Leverage: \$1,135,000
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 17.61%
DSS + Personnel: \$319,000
As a % of the total request: 4.95%
Easement Stewardship: \$180,000
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: 3.79%

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

Like all conservation entities, the Minnesota Land Trust & Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation have direct support expenses which are essential to complete a conservation project, which include such costs as administrative support staff, office space, printing and office supplies. This proposal accounts for these critical expenses which are consistent with the Land Trust's current application for a federal indirect expense rate. However, we included only 50% of these direct support costs in this proposal, with the other 50% coming as leverage and paid for through the Minnesota Land Trust's fundraising. LLAWF calculated using similar methodology and will be matching our indirect through fundraising.

Does the amount in the contract line include R/E work?

\$54,000 will be used to produce Habitat Management Plans on lands we will protect via conservation easements and \$45,000 will be used to hire John Sumption as an outside consultant who acts as LLAWF's Conservation Director.

Does the amount in the travel line include equipment/vehicle rental? - No

Explain the amount in the travel line outside of traditional travel costs of mileage, food, and lodging:

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

Donated Conservation Easements (\$ 950,000), Donation Fee Title \$ 130,000 (Leech Lake Band \$100,000) and (\$55,000) Admin in-Kind

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable? - Yes

Tell us how this project would be scaled and how administrative costs are affected, describe the "economy of scale" and how outputs would change with reduced funding, if applicable:

The Conservation Easement portion of the proposal could be reduced and the budget modified to reflect changes to adjusted outputs. Their is a certain level of fixed cost associated with landowner outreach, technical review of applications and site visits of landowner

finalist making it challenging to scale below 50% reduction.

Output Tables

Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	19	19
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	1,300	1,300
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1,319	1,319

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$905,000	\$905,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,540,000	\$5,540,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,445,000	\$6,445,000

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	19	19
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	1,300	1,300
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	1,319	1,319

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$905,000	\$905,000
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,540,000	\$5,540,000
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,445,000	\$6,445,000

Table 5. Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47,632
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,262
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Table 6. Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$47,632
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,262
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2

Parcel List

Explain the process used to select, rank and prioritize the parcels:

This list includes targeted lakes where we will solicit landowners to participate in a competitive application process. Landowner applications will be ranked based on the tract's habitat value. Current application criteria include: feet of sensitive shoreland, percent of wetlands, types of wetlands, percentage of forest proximity to protected lands, does parcel have an inlet or outlet and potential for development. The parcel list includes two potential large conservation easements and both of these landowners will need to apply and have their projects evaluated against all the applications. These two project are very unique in the fact that they will result in two lakes designated in a protective class. The Leech Lake "Two Point" parcel was reviewed to determine its ranking for an AMA acquisition and ranked 36 out of 40. Do to the properties history with the Leech Lake Band we determined they were the best long term stewards for the property. Additionally MNDNR fully supports this acquisition.

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Aitkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Cedar Lake	04727231	0	\$0	no	no	No
Cedar Lake	04727231	0	\$0	No	No	No
Hill Lake	05226212	0	\$0	no	no	no
Long Lake	04625210	0	\$0	no	no	no
Round Lake	04923225	0	\$0	no	no	No

Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Bass Lake	14026227	0	\$0	no	no	No
Cooper	14028211	0	\$0	No	No	No
Deep Portage	13929207	0	\$0	no	no	No
Girl Lake	14128233	0	\$0	no	no	No
Hattie Lake	13929231	0	\$0	no	no	No
Leech Lake - Agency Bay	14230219	19	\$950,000	No	Full	Full
Little Boy Lake	14028210	1,200	\$3,500,000	no	no	No
Long Lake	14128223	0	\$0	no	no	No
Long Lake	14231233	0	\$0	no	no	No
Mann Lake	14029204	0	\$0	no	no	No
Pleasant Lake	14030221	0	\$0	no	no	No
Thunder Lake	14026209	0	\$0	no	no	No
Washburn Lake	13926209	0	\$0	no	no	No
Women Lake	14028206	0	\$0	no	no	No

Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Big Trout	13728223	0	\$0	no	no	No
Borden Lake	04428215	0	\$0	no	no	No
Crooked Lake	04528216	0	\$0	no	no	No
Kenny Lake	04428202	0	\$0	no	no	No
Lower Hay Lake	13729225	0	\$0	no	no	No
Ossawinamakee Lake	13628204	0	\$0	no	no	No
Pelican Lake	13628227	0	\$0	no	no	No
Roosevelt Lake	13826208	0	\$0	no	no	No
Star Lake	13728225	441	\$1,000,000	no	no	No
Whitefish Lake	13728207	0	\$0	no	no	No

Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Big Mantrap Lake	14233232	0	\$0	no	no	No
Big Sand Lake	14138228	0	\$0	no	no	No
Eleventh Crow Wing Lake	14132215	0	\$0	no	no	No
Kabekona Lake	14332230	0	\$0	no	no	No
Ninth Crow Wing Lake	14032206	0	\$0	no	no	No
Spearhead Lake	15434223	0	\$0	no	no	No

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

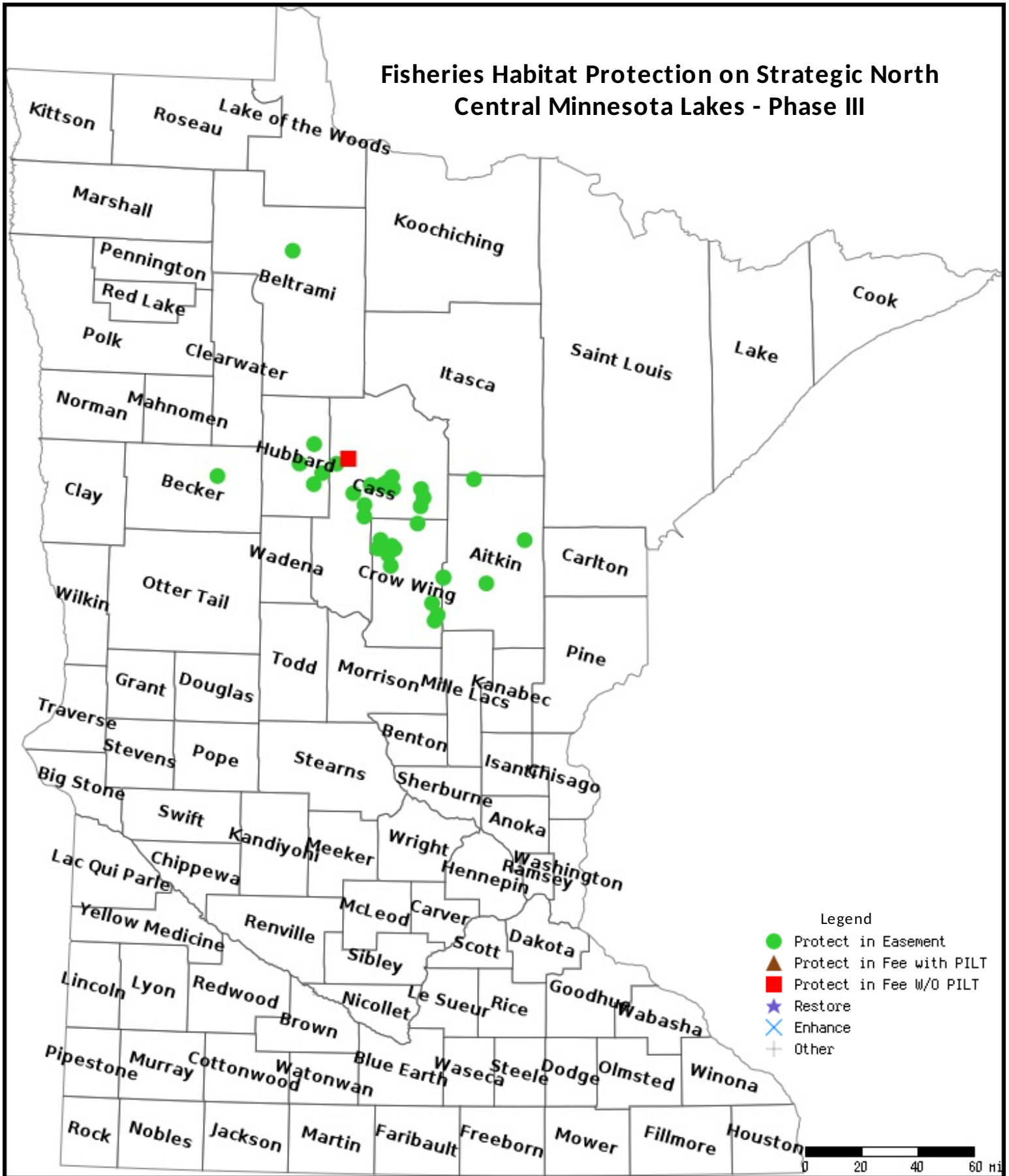
No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

Parcel Map

Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase III



Data Generated From Parcel List

leech lake area WATERSHED FOUNDATION

Protecting Waters, Woods, and Wildlife for Future Generations to Enjoy

CLEAN WATER & CRITICAL HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

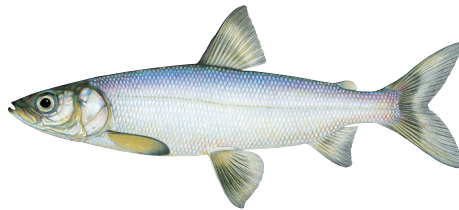
The Clean Water and Critical Habitat Protection Program is focused on protecting high priority critical fish habitat and the surrounding watersheds in Minnesota's North Central Lakes region by securing permanent conservation easements. We will work with landowners to permanently protect approximately 400 acres through a ranking system that guides our selection process for purchasing conservation easements. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.



Fisheries research has shown that healthy watersheds with intact forests are fundamental to good fish habitat. If a lake's watershed has less than 25% land disturbance and 75% or more of its landscape remains forested and permanently protected, the lake has a high probability of sustaining clean water and healthy lake ecosystem to support fish. Projects that can simultaneously reduce shoreline development and watershed disturbances can yield the greatest conservation return.

We will focus our protection strategy on 38 Tullibee Refuge Lake and their watersheds. Tullibee are the proverbial "canary in the coal mine" fish species due to their sensitivity to even slight changes in water temperature and oxygen levels. A decrease in tullibee population can signal deterioration of the lake's water quality. Protecting lakes from excess nutrients such as phosphorus

is critical to maintaining sufficient oxygen levels. Forestland plays a key role in ensuring quality habitat, acting like a sponge to absorb and hold rainfall and reduce runoff to the surface waters of lakes and streams. Tullibee is an important food source for lake trout, northern pike, muskie and walleye. This program will also benefit habitat for many wildlife and water fowl species.



The conservation easement program will focus on critical shoreland and forested parcels. The 38 refuge Tullibee lakes in North Central Minnesota all have less than 25% land disturbance in their watersheds and already have some degree of watershed protection. With strategic effort, it is feasible to reach permanent 75% watershed protection for many of these lakes. Additionally, we will develop conservation complexes that can act as corridors, connecting existing protected land and expanding their impact.

PROJECT PARTNERS



Cass, Crow-Wing, Hubbard and Aitkin Soil and Water Conservation Districts

HOW WILL PROJECTS BE CHOSEN FOR THIS PROGRAM?

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation and the Minnesota Land Trust are opening a competitive application process to select conservation easements for funding on private lands within Minnesota's North Central lake region which includes Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard and Aitkin Counties. Using a multi-faceted approach to prioritizing easements, a technical committee comprised of County and State agencies and project partners will weigh the overall habitat benefits of the property against the costs of acquiring the easement.



Funding will be focused on lands within the Tullibee Refuge Lake watersheds although special project applications outside the focus area will also be accepted and evaluated for their potential to protect critical fish habitat. A complete list of current lakes is at the end of this application. A second round of applications will be considered in 2016 using a similar application process.

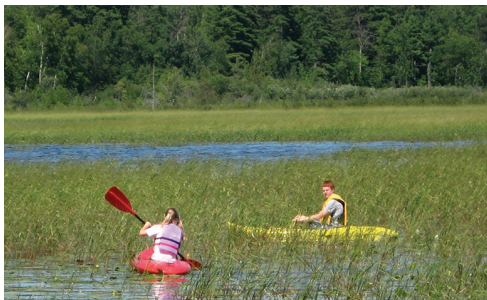
Initial applications are non-binding. Landowners and project partners are not legally bound to a conservation easement until both parties agree to and sign final conservation easement documents.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Each landowner will have their land scored based on a set of established habitat value factors. This habitat value score takes into account the size of the parcel, ecological features, amount of shoreline, protection of water quality, location in relation to other protected lands, etc.



To ensure we maximize our ecological impact, we are asking landowners to consider taking less than full compensation. This will allow us to increase the total number of acres protected and help create a competitive process. A landowner's willingness to take less than full appraised value of the easement will be taken into consideration when applications are reviewed, but will not be the sole determining factor. You may choose to be fully compensated, partially compensated, or to donate the easement.



The applications will then be ranked based on the tract's habitat value. Examples of criteria include; feet of sensitive shoreland, percentage of wetland, percentage in forest, and proximity to public or other protected lands. Existence of forest management plans and the number of additional homesites the applicant would like to retain will also be factored and rated. After all the applications have been received, a compilation of scores with rankings will be assembled and used to guide the selection process.

Easements will be funded in order of highest project value rating to lowest. After the highest rated project is selected, the application with the next highest rating will be selected in order until all available funds have been assigned to selected projects. If for any reason a conservation easement does not move forward or the application is withdrawn, the next highest rated project may be selected.



WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

Conservation easements are individually tailored agreements through which landowners limit the use and development of their property to permanently preserve its natural or scenic features. These features – called conservation values – might include significant wildlife and plant habitat, lake or river shoreline, wetlands or important scenic or cultural lands which benefit the public. Conservation easements targeted at sensitive shoreland and private forest within Tullibee Refuge Lake watersheds are an effective approach to protecting water quality.

In order to protect these conservation values, certain restrictions regarding use of the property and the reserved rights of the landowner are detailed in a conservation easement, which is conveyed to a non-profit conservation organization or government agency qualified to hold and enforce easements. In this program the Minnesota Land Trust will be holding acquired easements. Once the easement is signed by the landowner and the easement holder, the document is filed with the local county land records.



Most conservation easements, including all of those by the Minnesota Land Trust, are perpetual. They apply to the current and all future landowners, permanently protecting the property. Each conservation easement is unique and is individually crafted to reflect the special characteristics of the land and the particular situation of the landowner.

PROGRAM FUNDED BY

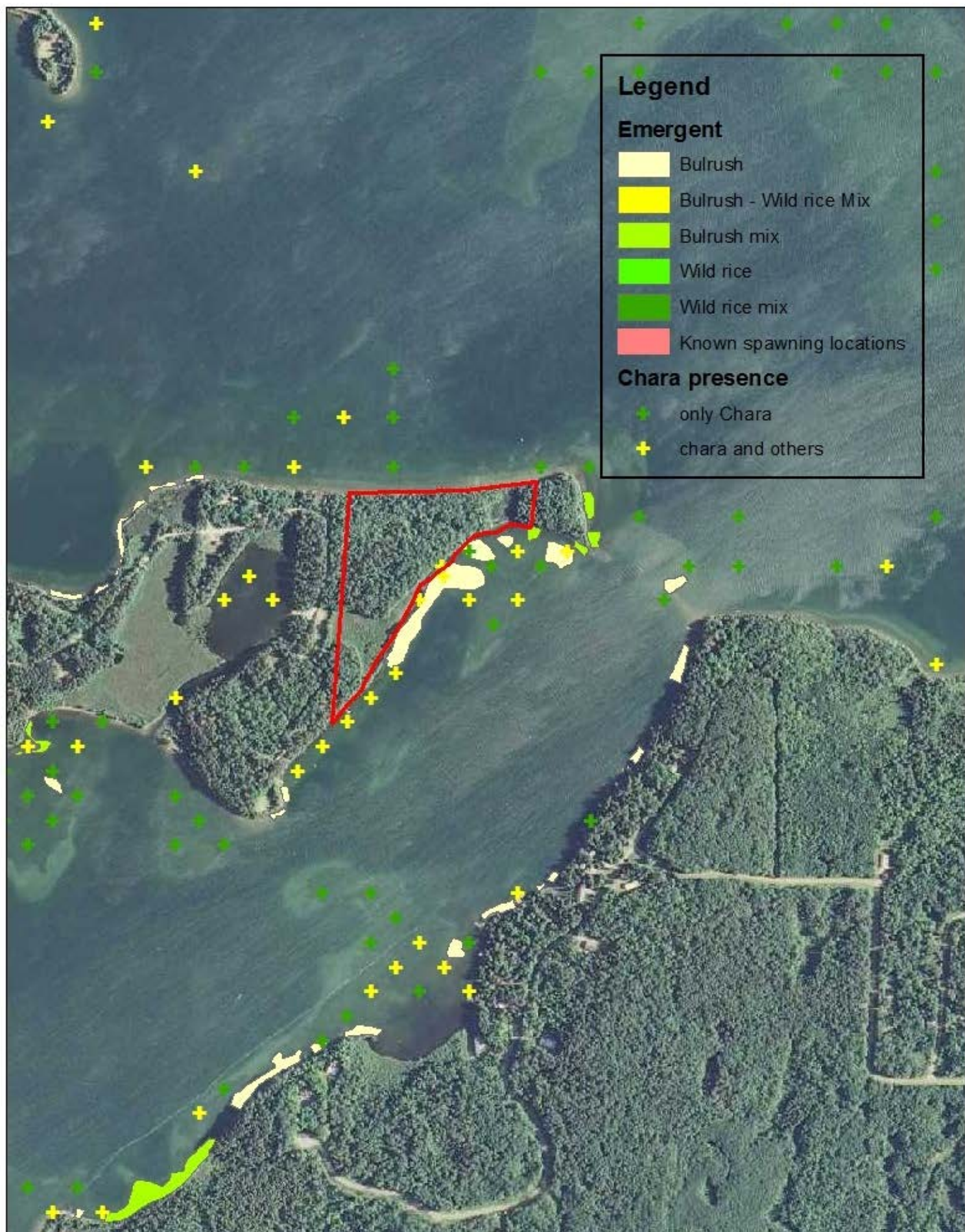


For More Information Contact:

Leech Lake Area Watershed

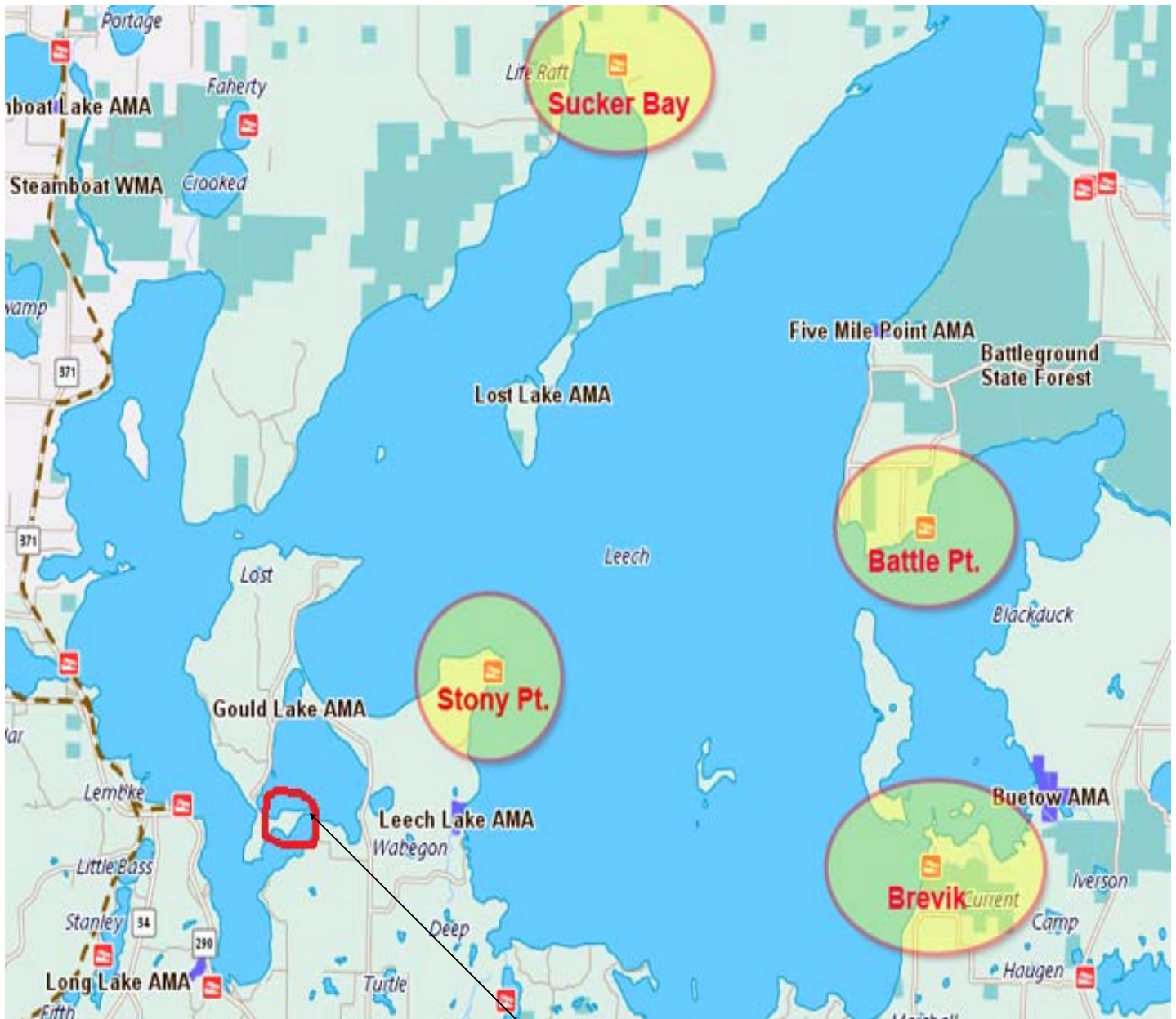
218-675-5773

info@leechlakewatershed.org



HA04 Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes Phase III

Fee Title Acquisition Leech Lake - Agency Bay



In 2016 MNDNR finalized their Fisheries Management Plan for Leech Lake. Using nearshore habitat inventory and muskellunge spawning habitat assessment, area fisheries biologists and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe have identified Agency Bay (oligotrophic) as a key acquisition to protect spawning areas for walleye and muskellunge. We seek funds to strategically acquire 19.50 acres that boarded Leech Lake Band and U.S. Forest Service to protect this high quality aquatic habitat and approximately 3,200 feet of shoreland that would protect the third largest lake in Minnesota. The land would be managed like a MNDNR Aquatic Management Area and held in trust by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The parcel will be open to the public for hunting and recreation.



September 6, 2016

Dear Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council:

I was unable to attend the August 23rd hearing due to a medical commitment, but have heard many positive comments from representatives of Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. who were in attendance, regarding the process and format used at the hearing to discern the successful grant applicants.

I want to thank the Council for hearing our Dutch Creek habitat restoration project designed to complement the work we continue to do in restoring the health of our chain of lakes and the fisheries quality we enjoy.

The Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc. has been partnering with Martin SWCD on water quality projects for the chain of lakes and throughout the watershed. We see our project of fisheries improvement and habitat restoration as vital to improving the quality in our reservoir. We believe that, although our projects may overlap in some detail, we cannot separate one from the other and achieve the same quality results.

We understand the committee's concern that this project falls under water quality rather than habitat restoration, however we strongly believe that we have filed our application properly, as we need this habitat restoration project to provide a base for our ongoing water quality improvement projects.

The planning stage for this grant application began years ago and included Fairmont Lakes Foundation, DNR, SWCD, City of Fairmont, and County Conservation Organizations. In addition input was gleaned from listening sessions held in various citizen formats. At each of our monthly Foundation meetings, we hold an open community forum and this project has surfaced as citizens express their concerns for the need for fisheries/habitat restoration in this area. The

citizen's fisheries concerns have been focused on the need to repair the spawning ground for the Northern population in our reservoir.

We have a committed base of support from a wide variety of advocate voices throughout the watershed which strongly support this Fairmont Lakes Foundation Dutch Creek Habitat Restoration. We humbly request your consideration and financial support for our project.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Katzenmeyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael J. Katzenmeyer

Chair

Fairmont Lakes Foundation, Inc.