

From: [Wilson, Grant \(DNR\)](#)
To: [Mark Johnson](#)
Cc: [Joe Pavelko](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Becky Enfield](#); [Johnson, Jay \(DNR\)](#); [Schulte, Judy \(DNR\)](#); [Hoch, Greg \(DNR\)](#); [Nerbonne, Brian A \(DNR\)](#); [Lien, Ricky \(DNR\)](#); [Strommen, Sarah \(DNR\)](#); [Meier, Bob \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: DNR LSOHC Follow-Up
Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 8:34:26 PM
Attachments: [pastedImage.png](#)
[pastedImage.png](#)
[pastedImage.png](#)
[pastedImage.png](#)

Mark,

There were two big-picture questions/topics that came up in DNR ML19 request presentations that we wanted to provide a bit more information about for you and Council members. Thanks for your help and work!

Questions on difference between maintenance and habitat enhancement

All conservation land habitat quality degrades over time, and relies on active disturbance or other actions to improve, and therefore enhance the habitat. DNR's enhancement projects work on substantially intact habitat with the goal of improving ecological structure and/or function and increasing the site capacity to sustain habitat and natural processes. Prescribed burning, tree release, tree removal, and grade stabilization on an existing trout stream are all examples. DNR uses OHF to greatly accelerate the amount of habitat enhancement, and overall habitat quality, we could do but for the appropriation.

DNR views maintenance in terms of infrastructure, and does not seek funds for these projects. In the case of structure, dam, dike infrastructure maintenance, we consider an action to be habitat enhancement only if it improves the habitat conditions from the original infrastructure design or allows habitat functions to occur given changed environmental conditions.

Question on Accessibility for PA 01 DNR WMA and SNA Acquisition - Phase XI

The Minnesota DNR is committed to making the outdoors accessible to as many people as possible. The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, and Commissioner's Order give direction on compliance are our guidance. For information, including details about use of wheelchairs, manually-powered mobility aids, Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices, where special use permits are required, and more, go to:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/accessible_outdoors/opdmd/index.html

I hope this is helpful, and please let me know if you have other questions.

Grant

Grant L. Wilson

Fish & Wildlife Policy & Planning Supervisor
Liaison to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

651.259.5186

Grant.Wilson@state.mn.us
mndnr.gov

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources official website. The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.



From: [Jane Kingston](#)
To: [Wilson, Grant \(DNR\)](#)
Cc: [Mark Johnson](#); [Joe Pavelko](#); [Strommen, Sarah \(DNR\)](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Becky Enfield](#); [Bob Anderson \(boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us\)](#); [Nerbonne, Brian A \(DNR\)](#); [Boyle, Jason \(DNR\)](#); [Jennings, Martin \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: Re: Stream Habitat and Dam Safety Lists
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 11:37:00 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Just spoke with Brian N, and an important point of clarification is that #1 on the DNR Stream Priority List is Wild Rice River as addressed in PA05.

Councillors should be apprised ASAP.....

Thanks!

-Jane

On Mon, Sep 10, 2018 at 12:51 PM, Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us> wrote:

Mark,

In response to your request, you can find the Dam Safety priority list at https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mndocs/mandates_detail?orderid=974 . The stream restoration priority list is attached. I have cc'd Jane and Julie, as they separately requested the lists, but please share with all Council members.

In addition, and in response to Jane's email regarding the "Dam Finder" website (https://arcgis.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/dam_finder/), our staff want to share the following:

We recognize the challenge that the council has this year with several dam modification projects coming before the council. It is difficult to assess the relative habitat value of a project, which is why we created the DNR priority list (attached). Hopefully we can provide you with some more information that will help your evaluation.

For your question regarding the DNR's GIS dam finder app, it just became active in July. As our disclaimer in the app states, we don't guarantee the accuracy of the information. The purpose field is the intended or current purpose of the dam. Some of the purpose fields are blank, or are listed simply as "other". We are currently updating the purpose field as best we can. This is not straightforward, as dams have multiple purposes, and the purpose of the original dam may not be the same as the current purpose. We are contemplating having 2 fields for purpose: original purpose and current purpose.

As you indicated, the purpose of a PROJECT may be different from the purpose of the dam. If a hydroelectric dam is modified to include fish passage, we still list it as a hydro dam, though the project purpose is for connectivity/fish and wildlife. The owner field should be fairly accurate, though it changes frequently.

Next, we will tackle your question about priority lists. Each of the proposals before the council is below, and we've provided information on whether they are on the priority list, as well as where they rank on the Dam Safety list. Please keep in mind that ranking of the two lists use different criteria. The Stream Habitat priority list ranks projects based on factors such as ecological benefit and local support, while the Dam Safety list uses criteria required in statute 103G.511 such as condition, future use of the dam, and public safety.

Let me know if we missed any of the projects proposed for this year where you have questions.

HRE 2- DNR Aquatic Habitat

All of the fish passage projects in the DNR proposal appear on the Stream Habitat priority list. Phelps Mill is #35 on the Dam Safety list, and the top project that is ready for funding currently. The Lake Carlos outlet dam is not on the Dam Safety list, and is #7 on the Stream Habitat list. Fredenberg Creek culverts do not appear on either list because they are not dams.

HRE 6- Pine River Fish Passage Project 2020

This dam does not appear on the DNR Stream Habitat priority list. It is #40 on the Dam Safety priority list.

HRE 7- Sauk River Fish Passage

The Sauk River dam at Melrose is #2 on the Stream Habitat priority list, and #43 on the Dam Safety priority list.

HRE 8- Restoration of Norway Brook connectivity to the Pine River by removal of Norway Lake Dam and replacement with rock-arch rapids

This project is #6 on the stream habitat priority list, and is listed as "funded FY17" for \$200,000 on the Dam Safety priority list.

HRE 9- Cedar River Habitat Restoration

The Ramsey Dam on the Cedar River does not appear on either DNR list. The 4th Ave. dam in Austin, about four miles downstream on the Cedar River, is on the Dam Safety list under the “not prioritized” portion of the list.

I have several other follow-up items from DNR requests that I will send in a separate email.

thanks

Grant

Grant L. Wilson

Fish & Wildlife Policy & Planning Supervisor

Liaison to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

651.259.5186

Grant.Wilson@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



From: [Mark Johnson](#)
To: [Becky Enfield](#)
Subject: FW: Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership Phase V (PA 08)
Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 7:50:13 AM
Attachments: [PCS Proposed Tracts of Interest- Clay County.pdf](#)
[PCS Proposed Tracts of Interest- Clay County #2.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Becky:

Had this info made its way to you yet?

MWJ

From: Steven Burdick [mailto:sburdick@pheasantsforever.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>
Cc: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>
Subject: Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership Phase V (PA 08)
Importance: High

Mark & Joe,

As a follow up to Julie Blackburn's question regarding leks at the Prairie Chicken Society hearing (PA 08) and the question she had about a couple of proposed tracts in Clay County that are to the west of the Prairie Plan Core Area. We appreciate the opportunity to gather more information for her and follow up after the hearing. The attached maps are a zoomed in look of those two proposed tracts and how they relate to other permanently protected lands, the MN Prairie Conservation Plan and Prairie Chicken leks. These two tracts have willing sellers and were added to the parcel list because of their location near two existing Prairie Chicken leks. These two tracts have remained on our proposed list for a few years now. In the past years other tracts that were of greater ecological value with limited available funds for one reason or another have taken priority over these tracts. We still feel these projects are of value and since we still have willing sellers and they fit the priorities of the proposal they remain on the parcel list but may not be accomplished due to other tracts being more urgent with the available dollars. Also, I would add that the Prairie Plan boundaries are based in part and are preferencing existing grassland/wetland cover in those areas although there still are high quality, high value complexes outside of Prairie Plan core and corridor areas that are important to Prairie Chickens. We, like many other NGOs, try to focus efforts in relation to statewide action plans and the available geospatial priority layers, but we also believe that we cannot pass up on high quality projects that may lie outside the lines of Prairie Plan areas. In this case we would be building onto existing habitat near isolated Prairie Chicken populations which can increase that populations ability to sustain itself and potentially build a corridor back to the core area.

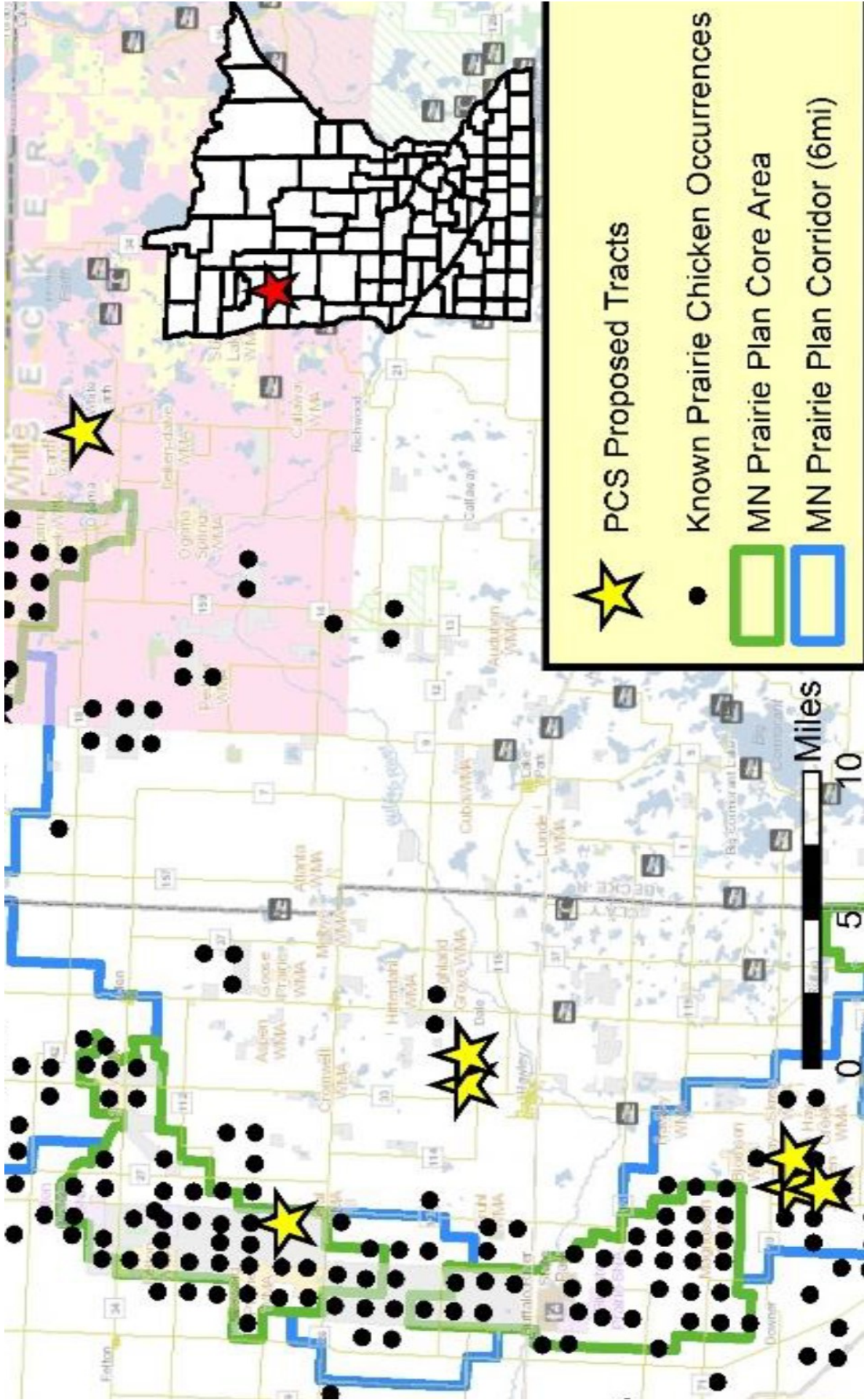
Please note that the maps are at this scale due to the sensitive nature of specific leks and this email being public in nature.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any follow up questions and we would be happy to talk habitat with you whenever you would like!

Steven Burdick | Minnesota Project Manager
Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever
p. (701) 200-3588 | sburdick@pheasantsforever.org

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PCS Proposed Tracts



Known Prairie Chicken Occurrences

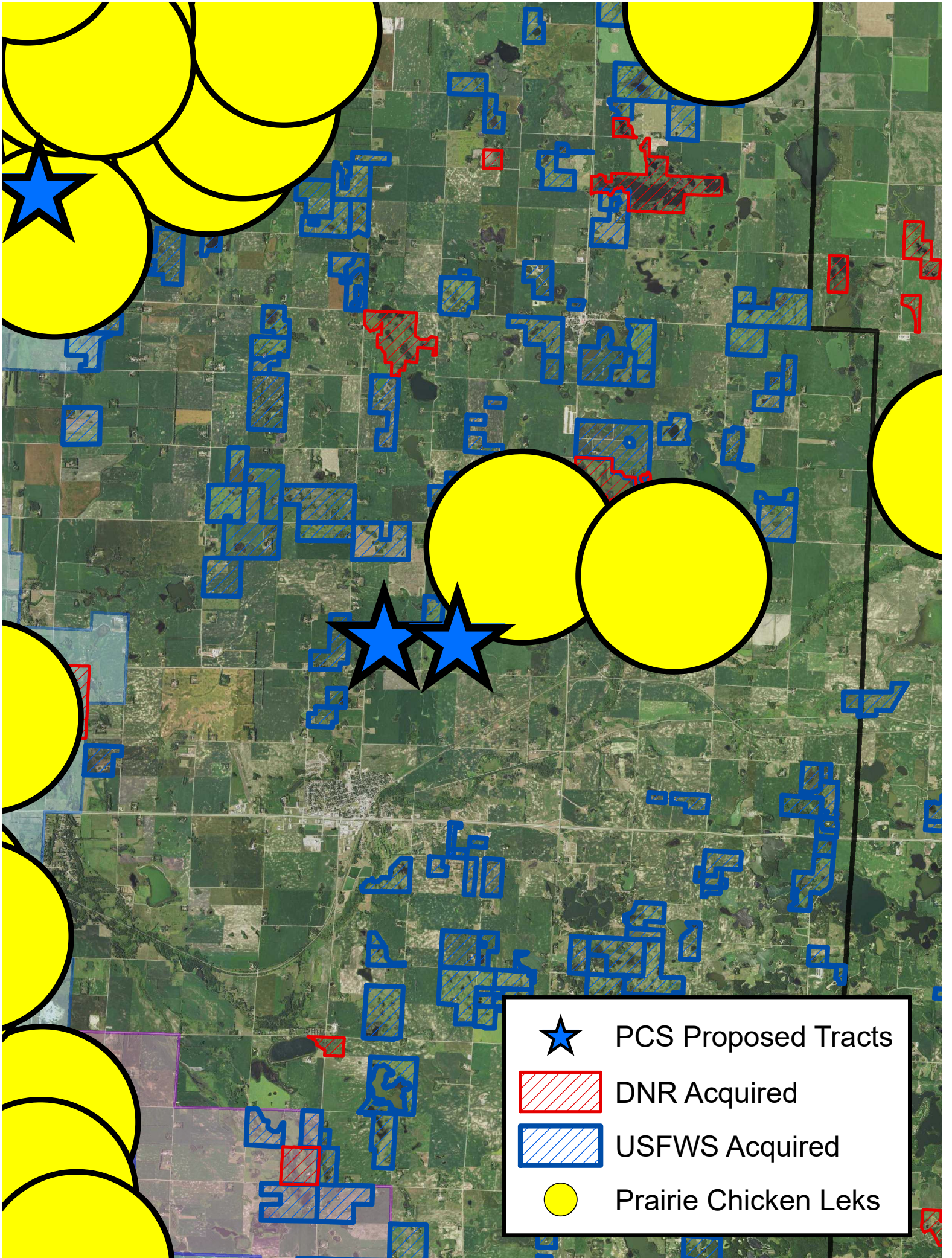


MN Prairie Plan Core Area



MN Prairie Plan Corridor (6mi)





- ★ PCS Proposed Tracts
- ▨ DNR Acquired
- ▨ USFWS Acquired
- Prairie Chicken Leks

From: [Sandy Smith](#)
Subject: WA-01 Proposal follow-up
Date: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 8:17:33 AM

Members - Attached is follow up from WA-01 Proposal.

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

From: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>
 Sent: Monday, September 10, 2018 3:24 PM
 To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>
 Cc: Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Becky Enfield <Becky.Enfield@commissions.leg.state.mn.us>;
 Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Tom Kerr (tom_kerr@fws.gov) <tom_kerr@fws.gov>; Danielle
 Kepford (danielle_kepford@fws.gov) <danielle_kepford@fws.gov>
 Subject: RE: Lsohc

Mark et al,

See below from the USFWS regarding your request. Thanks much and good seeing you last week!

Here is an outline of the refuge revenue sharing program and county trust fund payments:

- The Service makes annual payments to counties for National Wildlife Refuge System lands through its Refuge Revenue Sharing (RRS) program. The full Refuge Revenue Sharing Payment is $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1 percent of the market value of the land. Refuge lands are reappraised approximately every 5 years. From 2007 to 2017, Congress authorized on average 27.1% of the full RRS payment.
- County Trust Fund Payments (CTFP) may be made to the county to offset property tax revenue lost when land comes into Federal Government ownership as a Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Minnesota. The County Trust Fund Payment is a one-time payment made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when the property becomes federally owned.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service encourages counties to invest the payment to provide long-term returns to the county. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not restrict how the county uses the CTFP
- The CTFP calculation uses the approved appraised value, the Refuge Revenue Sharing percent of full entitlement (0.0075), the percent of current annual RRS entitlement, the difference between the RRS payment and expected property taxes, and the one year Treasury bill rate to calculate the lump sum CTFP. Each CTFP ranges from 5%-10% of the appraised value of the property, but may not exceed 10%. For appraised values over \$250,000, payment is limited to \$25,000 or 5% whichever is greater.

Sample Calculation

Appraised Value: \$100,000

Refuge Revenue Sharing full entitlement: $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% = .0075 Refuge Revenue Sharing (RRS) percent appropriation:

25% Property Taxes: \$500

1 year T-Bill: 2% (used to determine a return if the CTFP is invested by the county)

RRS Payment: $\$100,000 \times .0075 \times 25\% = \187.50 Difference between RRS and taxes: $\$187.50 - \$500.00 =$

$\$ -312.50$ Payment at T-bill rate for full CTFP $\$312.50 / 2\% = \$15,625.00$ Payment = \$10,000 Payment is limited to 10% of value. For values over \$250,000, payment is limited to \$25,000 or 5% whichever is greater.

2017 Project:

Acres: 132.5 acres

Appraised Value: \$420,800

Refuge Revenue Sharing full entitlement: $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1% = .0075

2017 Refuge Revenue Share percent appropriation = 28.2%
2017 property taxes = \$2,202
1 year T-bill = 2.02%

RRS Payment 2017: $\$420,800 \times .0075 \times 28.2\% = \889.99 Difference between RRS and taxes: $\$889.99 - \$2,202 = -\$1,312.01$ Payment at T-bill rate for full CTFP: $1,312.01 / .0202 = \$64,950.0$ Payment to county: \$25,000 Payment is limited to 10% of value. For values over \$250,000, payment is limited to \$25,000 or 5% whichever is greater.

Tom Kerr

Refuge Supervisor
Area 3 - MN/IA
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
612-713-5406 (o)
612-790-0378 (c)

Eran Sandquist | State Coordinator - Minnesota
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-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>
Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>
Cc: Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Becky Enfield <Becky.Enfield@commissions.leg.state.mn.us>;
Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: Lsohc

Eran:

Regarding your WA-01 proposal, would you please provide to staff for the council a written schedule/formulation and description of the federal up- front tax payment and annual revenue sharing payment to county government.
Thanks
Mark

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sandy Smith](#)
Subject: FW: LSOHC follow-up regarding Big Rice Lake proposal - WRE-04
Date: Thursday, September 13, 2018 9:20:37 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

From: Lien, Ricky (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 12:49 PM
To: Mark Johnson (mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn) <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>; Joe Pavelko (Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn) <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Lueth, Bryan K (DNR) <bryan.lueth@state.mn.us>
Subject: LSOHC follow-up regarding Big Rice Lake proposal

Mark and Joe,

In the discussion of the Big Rice Lake OHF proposal (WRE04), there were some comments regarding the longevity of the project and the role of the outlet work to the entire project. I'm not sure if there was an actual question directed to us or if people were just talking things over as they thought about the proposal. I'll provide some clarification to what was being discussed and ask that you forward it to LSOHC members if you believe it will be helpful.

The combination of vegetation management and outlet restoration proposed at Big Rice Lake will enhance wetland habitat, specifically wild rice, for resident and migratory waterfowl, waterfowl hunters, and wild rice harvesters. The small-scale vegetation management that has been completed to date has proven to be successful at reestablishing wild rice by reducing pickerelweed and the debris on the lake bed. Using the knowledge gained from the small-scale efforts and applying it to a lake-wide scale will allow for a larger area of pickerelweed to be targeted each year, providing the ability to bring larger areas of wild rice back at a time. To date, we know this effort has been successful at reducing pickerelweed and reestablishing wild rice for 5 years (2013-2018) and is expected to remain successful for the foreseeable future.

In addition to the lake-wide vegetation management, the restoration of the outlet through the removal of an ineffective rock weir structure will improve the water flow moving through the basin and outlet, transport sediment, reduce vegetation (pickerelweed) in the outlet, and allow for natural water level variability. The outlet will be restored to the elevation of the original rock rapids prior to the construction of the weir. The original intent of the weir was to lower lake levels to allow for a more consistent rice crop annually. Wild rice responded well for the first couple years immediately following the construction, but gradually pickerelweed has out-competed wild rice due to the consistently low and stable water levels. In 2005, a lake drawdown was completed in attempt to freeze pickerelweed, which has been used as a way to reduce pickerelweed and encourage rice to reestablish. The lake drawdown was unsuccessful at freezing the substrate and pickerelweed rhizomes and has since continued to expand and outcompete wild rice. Since the lake drawdown, various outlet surveys have been completed to determine the profile, efficiency, and impact the rock weir has on outlet and lake dynamics. Based on the data collected from the outlet, water levels, and changes in aquatic vegetation, a

restoration of the lake outlet to pre-weir conditions will restore proper water level variability on Big Rice Lake to enhance wild rice presence and abundance when completed with pickerelweed removal. This water level variability will ensure long-term outputs include the enhancement of 2072 acres of wetland habitat by increasing wild rice across the lake, reducing dense stands of pickerelweed, and restoring the natural hydrology to the system. These outputs will attract more migratory waterfowl to Big Rice Lake throughout the migration (spring and fall), and will improve waterfowl hunter and wild rice harvester satisfaction.

Thanks for your help and please let me know if you have any further questions.

Ricky

Ricky Lien

Wetland Habitat Team Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
e-mail: ricky.lien@state.mn.us
office phone: 651-259-5227



From: [Jane Kingston](#)
To: [Becky Enfield](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Joe Pavelko](#); [Mark Johnson](#); [Bob Anderson \(boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Audubon Minnesota
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 12:46:52 PM

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

From: **Beebe, Andrew** <abeebe@audubon.org>
Date: Wed, Sep 12, 2018 at 5:29 PM
Subject: Audubon Minnesota
To: "janehkingston@gmail.com" <janehkingston@gmail.com>

Hello Mrs Kingston, I appologize about the formating here, but I'm on the road without a computer. I will provide a pdf that Goes into a lot of detail about our prioritization process, but here are the big take away points:

- 1) We first met with our partners to discuss what the useful, measureable, and practical metrics would be when prioritizing which areas stand out as having good restoration potential.
- 2) 6 metrics we're identified;
 - a. Core Forest: large tracts of forest are very important for many of our indicator species. We can quantify "core forest" using maps that the USGS have developed. These maps measure individual pixels from air photos and generate maps showing where areas of contiguous forest (pixle surrounded by other forested pixle) currently exist.
 - b. Flood Durration: areas that flood over roughly 1/2 of the growing season do not typically lend themselves to successfull forest restoration projects. The USGS has developed flood duration maps that identify how long a particular site might flood. This data is based on years of river level and local elevation data.
 - c. 1987 Land Classification: the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge identified priority wildlilfe areas in 1987. These maps were created by meeting with managers from MN, WI, IA as well as the USFWS and the ACOE and identifying where individual agency prioritize were.
 - d. 1890 Land Cover: we have good data from the 1890 general land records office inventory. We know where floodplain forest existed historically. Although the landscape has changed since 1890, this still informs where forest could be a viable option.
 - e. Canopy Density: we know that small holes in forest canopy generally expand over time and become overrun with reed canary grass. Using forest inventory data and LiDar imaging we are able to map average canopy closures into broad groups (10-33%, 33-66%, etc). From this we can identify where we have large gaps, where gaps are increasing in size, and where we have large openings that could be replanted.
 - f. Soils: soils can strongly impact whether or not an area is a good candidate for restoration and what types of trees might work well on a site. We have soil data from the soil survey and ACOE soil data

3) We have developed a computer program that takes all these data into account on a stand level basis. We are then able to rank stands as very low, low, moderate, and high in terms of restoration potential. The major goal here is to identify stands where restoration is needed and has a good likelihood of being successful.

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From: [Jane Kingston](#)
To: [Mark Johnson](#); [Joe Pavelko](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Becky Enfield](#); [Bob Anderson \(boba@ci.international-falls.mn.us\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: LSOHC Follow-up from the SLRRI
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 12:47:15 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

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

From: **Sjolund, Melissa (DNR)** <melissa.sjolund@state.mn.us>
Date: Tue, Sep 11, 2018 at 10:33 AM
Subject: LSOHC Follow-up from the SLRRI
To: "janehkingston@gmail.com" <janehkingston@gmail.com>
Cc: "Strommen, Sarah (DNR)" <sarah.strommen@state.mn.us>, "Wilson, Grant (DNR)" <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>, "Collins, Pat (DNR)" <Pat.Collins@state.mn.us>, Kris Larson <klarson@mnland.org>, "darylpeterson@minnesotalandtrust.org" <darylpeterson@minnesotalandtrust.org>

Council Member Kingston,

Thank you again for the opportunity to present our LSOHC request, H RE 03 St. Louis River Restoration Initiative (SLRRI) – Phase VI, last week at LSOHC. DNR’s partnership with LSOHC and OHF has been highly successful so far, and is critical to completing the historic restoration of fish and wildlife habitat in the St. Louis River Estuary. Though the project can seem complex due to the multiple state and federal programs involved, we have demonstrated an excellent record in leveraging large amounts of federal match for critical habitat restoration. In fact, since our current ML19 OHF request was submitted in May, DNR has secured an additional \$3.5 million towards construction of the Perch Lake habitat restoration project from USEPA’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This demonstrates that DNR is continuing our history of securing the leveraged support needed to complete these important projects.

SLRRI is a high DNR priority, and an opportunity to create a lasting legacy with OHF. We would welcome the opportunity to talk more if you have questions about the big picture, or little details, of the project. Please contact Pat Collins (218-302-3242), Sarah Strommen (651-259-5012), or me anytime to discuss. Thanks again for your time and support.

Melissa Sjolund

Habitat Coordinator | EWR

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

[525 Lake Ave South #415](#)

[Duluth, MN 55802](#)

Phone: 218-302-3245

Email: melissa.sjolund@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



From: [Sandy Smith](#)
Subject: FW: HRE-06 Pine River Fish Passage Project 2020
Date: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 8:15:45 AM

Attached below is additional info on a proposal.

From: Beth Hippert <beth.hippert@crowwingswcd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 2:56 PM
To: Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: HRE-06 Pine River Fish Passage Project 2020

Hi Sandy,

During the Q & A session of our hearing last week Council Member Jane King wanted to know who paid for construction of the rock dam proposed for replacement by HRE-06 PRFPP-2020 riffle structures. I now have that answer; Big Pine Lake property owners paid for the rock dam. It was built October, 16,1970. I also found new information that may be helpful in assessing the infrastructure versus restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat and aquatic resource questions.

The lake association was formed 2 months before the project was built, August 16th. The purpose was to protect the aquatic communities affected by low water as well as recreational use. Each landowner was assessed \$75.00 to cover the cost of the dam and to create a maintenance fund for future repairs. The USACOE and DNR permitted the project with the condition the County take ownership. The County Highway Dept. maintains the structure. Funding comes from Big Pine Lake riparian owners who are assessed \$200.00 annually.

NOAA 1970 records show this area was in a drought that was categorized as moderate (Palmer Drought Index). I believe these conditions and subsequent affects to Big Pine Lake would have been exacerbated by USACOE directive to maintain pool elevations in upstream chain of lakes. It would also explain the urgency to protect lake levels.

Based on the DNR's listing of the lake today as a Biological Significant Lake for Outstanding Plant Community, the objective of the Lake Association was achieved. Unfortunately, the design was flawed and the pipe used to maintain fish passage was crushed blocking fish passage for nearly 50 years which the proposed riffle structures will restore.

For more information about why the BPLA was formed and how they paid for the dam click on the link below.

[Big Pine Lake History of Dam](#)

Please forward this information to Ms Kingston and the Council.

Respectfully,

Beth

Beth Hippert, Technician
Crow Wing SWCD

322 Laurel St Suite 22
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-828-6197 (ext 4251)
beth.hippert@crowwingswcd.org



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From: [Berg, Greg - NRCS-CD, Waite Park, MN](#)
To: [Mark Johnson](#)
Cc: [Joe Pavelko](#); [Becky Enfield](#); [Sandy Smith](#)
Subject: RE: Follow Up
Date: Monday, September 17, 2018 4:12:23 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Mark,

We are open to the original full funding request of 3,505,600 or the difference of the proposed funding by LCCMR which is the \$737,600 you referenced. I am not sure how secure the funding from LCCMR is at this time?

Thanks,

Greg

Greg Berg - Lakeshed Specialist
Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District
110 Second Street South, Suite # 128
Waite Park, MN 56387
Direct Phone: 320/345-6479
Office Phone: 320/251-7800 extension 3
Email: greg.berg@mn.nacdnet.net
Web: www.StearnsCountySWCD.net



From: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 4:08 PM
To: Berg, Greg - NRCS-CD, Waite Park, MN <Greg.Berg@mn.nacdnet.net>
Cc: Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Becky Enfield <Becky.Enfield@commissions.leg.state.mn.us>; Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: RE: Follow Up

Greg:

For the Council's deliberation, should they simply be considering you for the unfunded portion... \$737,600?

Mark

From: Berg, Greg - NRCS-CD, Waite Park, MN [<mailto:Greg.Berg@mn.nacdnet.net>]
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 4:06 PM
To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>

Subject: Follow Up

Hi Mark,

I just wanted to follow up after the Sauk River Fish Passage presentation to the LSOHC on Thursday September 6th.

Is there anything else I should prefer for the meeting on Thursday September 27th? Will there be a schedule for that day? I did reach out to member Kingston to answer any of her questions and have not heard back from her.

Thanks,

Greg

Greg Berg - Lakeshed Specialist
Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District
110 Second Street South, Suite # 128
Waite Park, MN 56387
Direct Phone: 320/345-6479
Office Phone: 320/251-7800 extension 3
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Web: www.StearnsCountySWCD.net

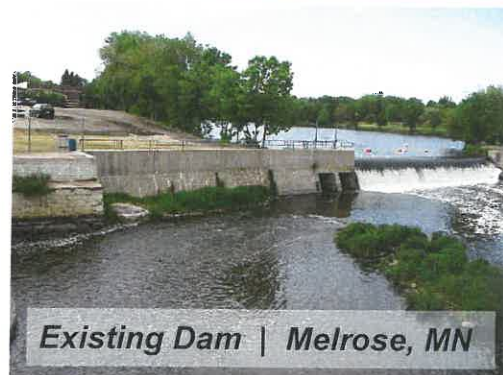


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SAUK RIVER DAM FISH PASSAGE

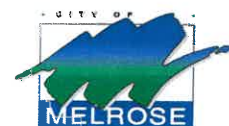
→ Project Overview

- Modify the Melrose Dam to create a rapids, with boulder arches to allow for fish passage
- Reconnect 16 miles of the Sauk River upstream creating 71 miles of connected channel



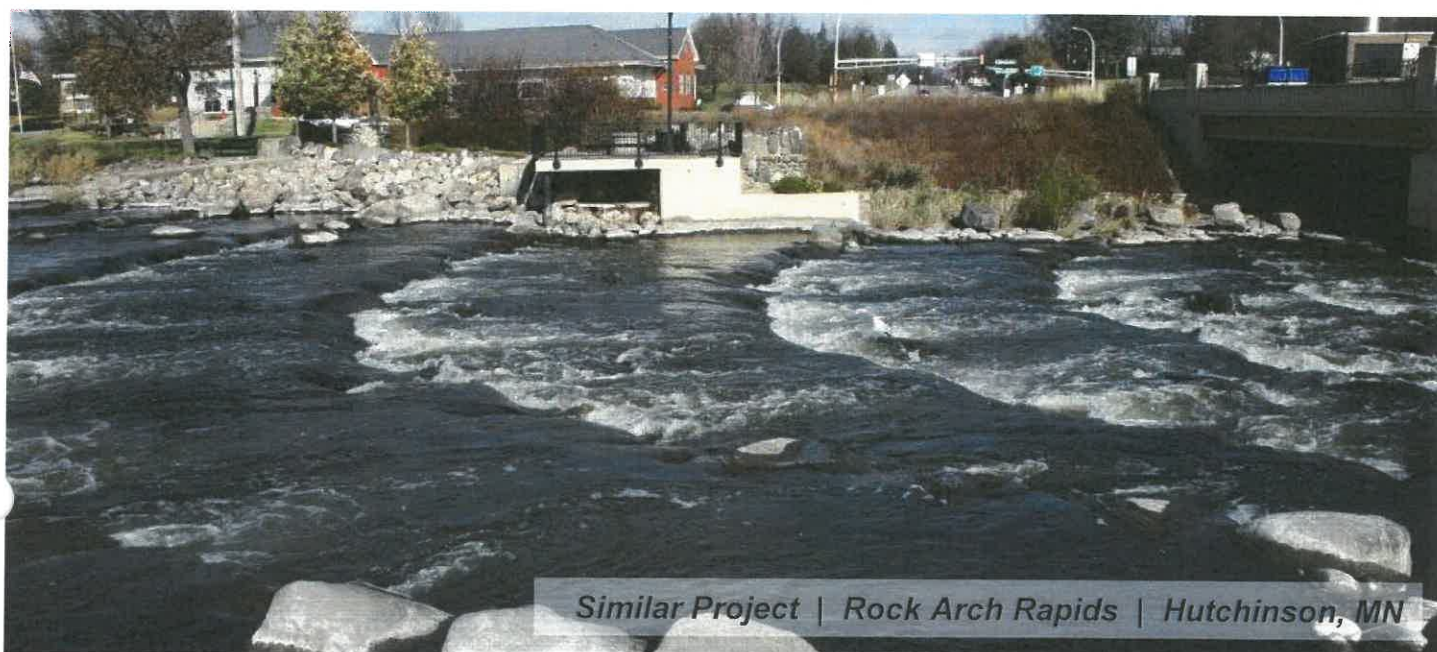
→ Project Management Experience

- Since 2001 the Stearns County SWCD has completed 115 shoreline projects (38 streambank projects for a total construction cost of \$751,811)
- Completed 3 Dam Removal projects
 - Whitney Park (St. Cloud) – Sauk River Dam Removal \$400,000
 - Experience with permitting process
 - Partnered with many agencies on these projects



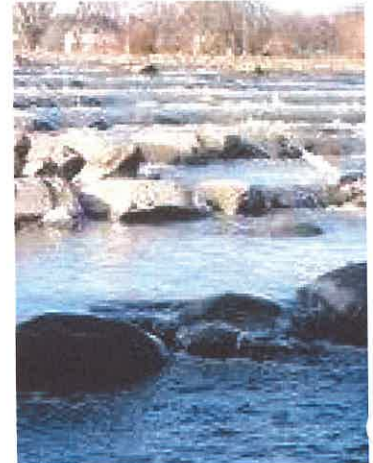
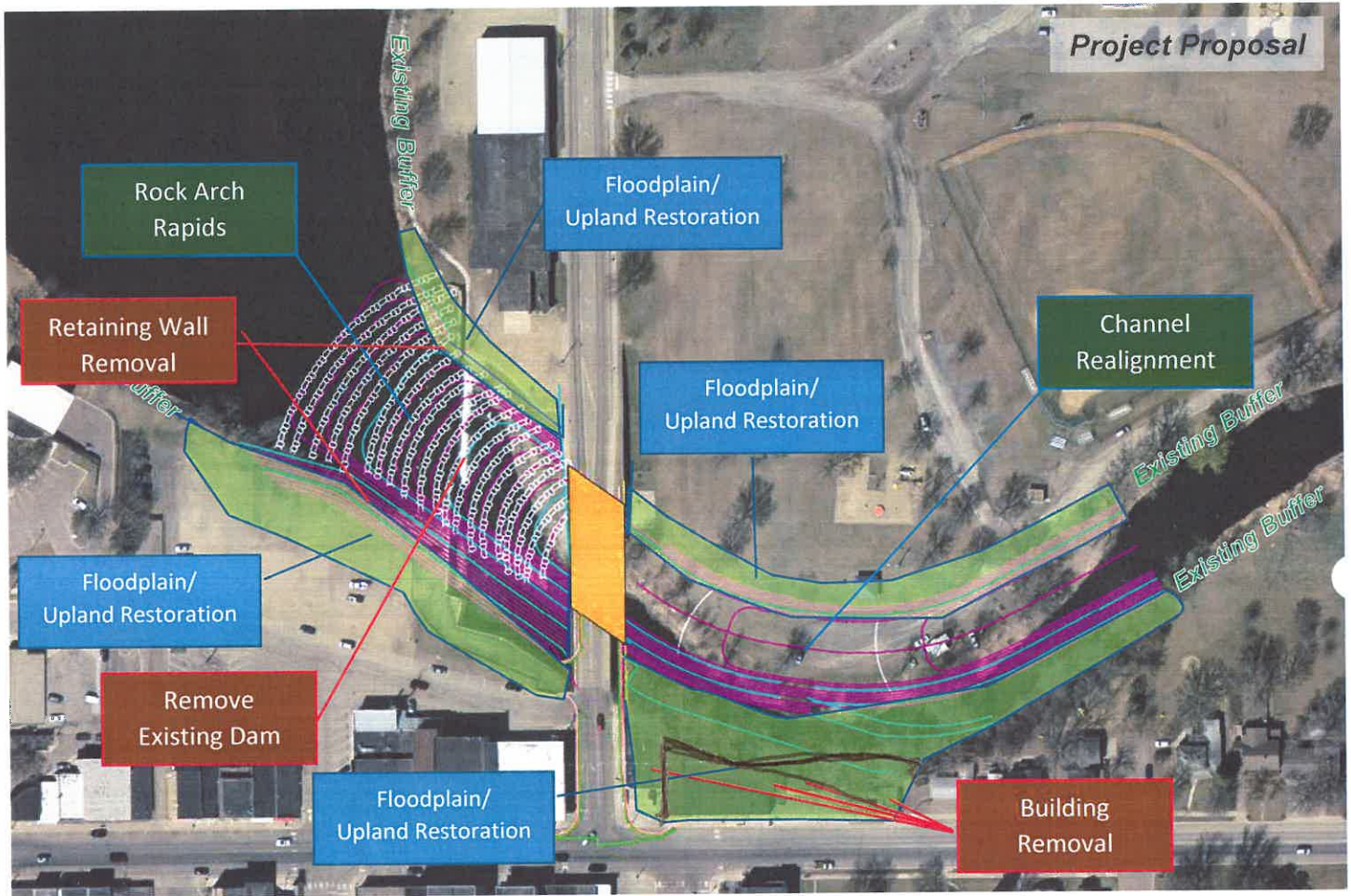
→ Funding Proposals and Partnerships

- LSOHC Request **\$3,505,600** for full funding
- LCCMR Proposed Commitment **\$2,768,000**, balance would be **\$737,600**
- City of Melrose requested funds from LCCMR prior to design input from DNR, which effects overall costs

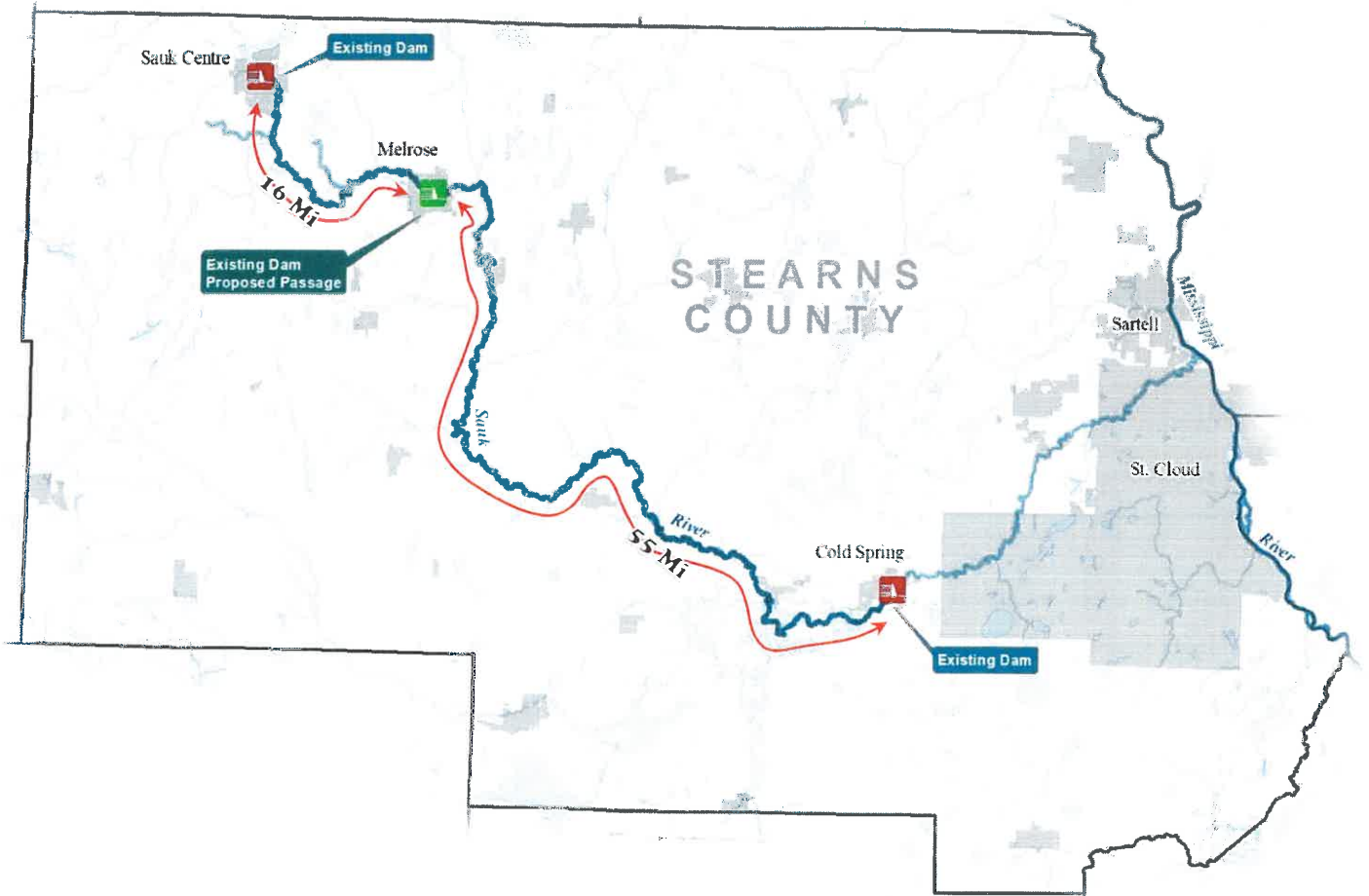


➔ **Site Plan**

- Rock Arch Rapids and channel realignment
- Restoration of 2 acres of floodplain/upland habitat proposed
- Building removal as part of the project



- ➔ Project would result in 71 miles of connected channel
- ➔ 2 acres of adjacent floodplain/upland would also be restored



Greg Berg | Stearns County SWCD

110 Second St. N.
Waite Park, MN 56387
320-345-6479

greg.berg@mn.nacdnet.net

Regional Destinations

- Total Reconstruct 1st St.
- Souk River Park
- Bridge, small over look
- Reunited

From: tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org
To: [Mark Johnson](#); [Joe Pavelko](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Becky Enfield](#)
Cc: [Justin Hanson](#); [Luke Lunde](#)
Subject: [FWD: RE: Cedar River Dam]
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 1:23:34 PM

Good afternoon,

Cedar River Watershed District greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide additional information on HRE 09 Cedar River Habitat Restoration to the LSOHC members. Below are comments on our proposed habit restoration project from Craig Soupir, who is our DNR area fisheries supervisor based in Waterville, MN.

Thank you,

Tim Ruzek

Water Plan & Outreach Coordinator

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District

Cedar River Watershed District

507-434-2603

cell: 507-993-2518

tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org

The benefits of dam removal are several for the health of a river and fish populations. Where dams exist, such as along portions of the Cedar River, the aquatic biodiversity declines because many riverine fish & mussel species can't sustain when they can't reach spawning and feeding areas in upper reaches of river systems. Improving fish passage would benefit the mussel community which relies on specific native fish species as temporary hosts that harbor then distribute immature mussels. For example, the extinction of 20 mussel species in the U.S. has been attributed to dams. All fish species are migratory to varying extent, but the most vulnerable fish species are those that travel very long distances (100's of miles) such as northern pike, channel catfish, freshwater drum, sauger, smallmouth bass, and walleye. The replacement of the Ramsey dam with rock ramps and arches would allow all fish, big and small, to migrate upstream during high, normal, and low flows. This ability to migrate seasonally to feeding and spawning areas is crucial to several native fish species in the Cedar River. In the case of providing fish passage at Ramsey Dam the existence of northern pike, for example, would enable pike to seasonally migrate into the upper watershed and access spawning areas, which are found in shallow flooded wetlands in upper watershed reaches. Smallmouth bass, which are present in healthy populations in downstream sections of the Cedar River, would also have expanded habitat potential with the removal of dams. The ramp and rapids method would also provide spawning habitat that is rare and often blocked or buried by the dam. Another issue with dams or fish barriers is the altered habitat is unsuitable for native riverine community, causing the riverine food webs to be altered. The native community suffers and becomes vulnerable to non-native species, often which induce further habitat degradation such as resuspension of nutrients and degradation of aquatic vegetation through feeding activity. The native fishes then can't successfully compete creating a system with reduced resiliency to even small environmental changes. In such cases the altered habitat created by dams fosters an environment that supports invasive species such as common carp. Additionally, many dams allow the movement of rough fish (e.g., common carp) while

precluding the movement of important predator species such as northern pike. This results in a fish population dominated by rough fish with no top-down mechanism of control (e.g., northern pike are a top level predator and can suppress common carp thus reducing carp numbers). In addition to benefits to fish populations, the natural movement of water and sediment is disrupted by dams resulting in accumulation of sediments in the reservoir, with channel and bank erosion below the dam. These issues can create poor environmental conditions that further favors rough fish or other undesirable fish populations. Ultimately, the removal of dams and improved connection of river systems is a benefit to the natural ecology of rivers. The removal of the Ramsey dam and other dams near Austin would be a benefit to the Cedar River and watershed.

Craig Soupir

*Waterville Area Fisheries Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

From: tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org
To: [Mark Johnson](#); [Joe Pavelko](#); [Sandy Smith](#); [Becky Enfield](#)
Cc: [Justin Hanson](#); [Luke Lunde](#)
Subject: Additional information - HRE 09 Cedar River Habitat Restoration
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 1:28:20 PM

Here is one more comment and map from DNR area fisheries supervisor Craig Soupir on the positive effect of the HRE 09 Cedar River Habitat Restoration project at the Ramsey Dam. Thank you,

Tim Ruzek

Water Plan & Outreach Coordinator

Mower Soil & Water Conservation District

Cedar River Watershed District

507-434-2603

cell: 507-993-2518

tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org

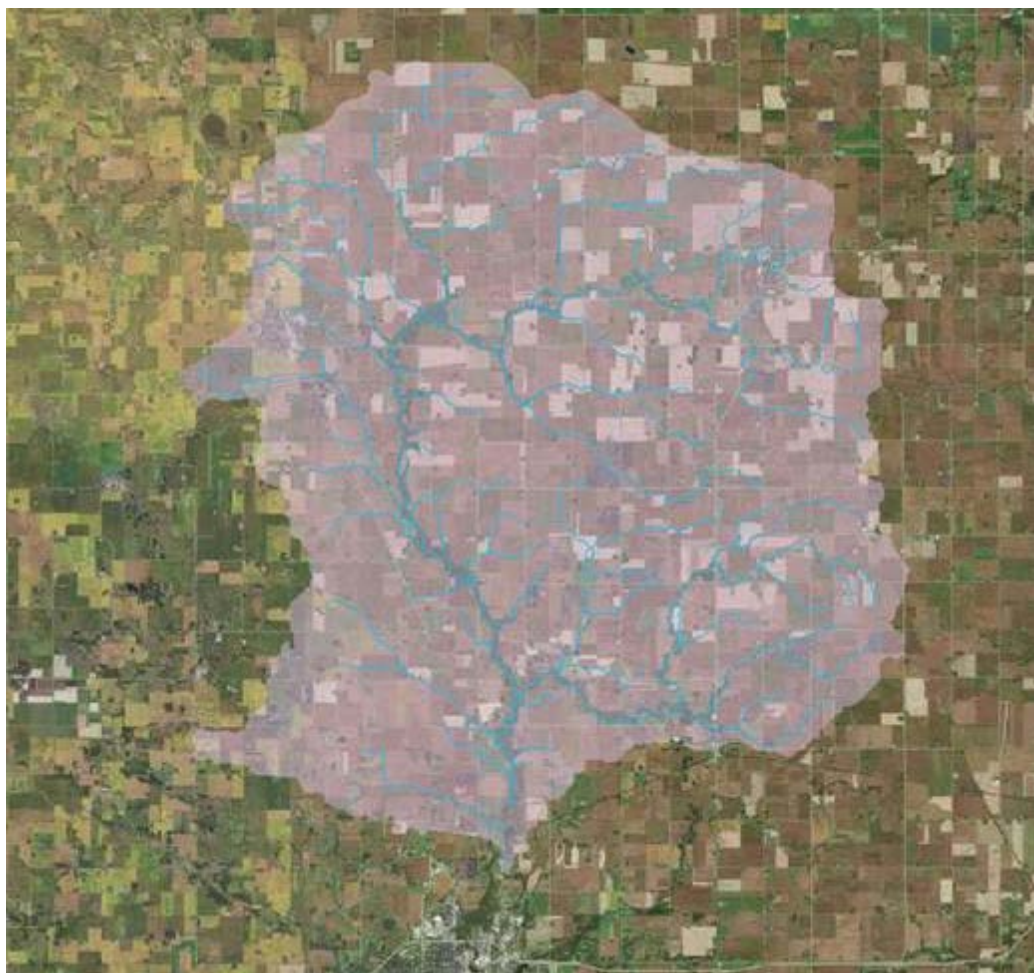
----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Cedar River Dam

From: "Soupir, Craig (DNR)" <craig.soupir@state.mn.us>

Date: Fri, September 14, 2018 1:12 pm

To: "tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org" <tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org>, Justin Hanson <justin.hanson@mowerswcd.org>



Craig Soupir

*Waterville Area Fisheries Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

From: Soupir, Craig (DNR)

Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 1:11 PM

To: 'tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org' <tim.ruzek@mowerswcd.org>; Justin Hanson <justin.hanson@mowerswcd.org>

Subject: RE: Cedar River Dam

No problem, please keep me in the loop on this project and let me know how I can engage. By the way I did some basic upstream assessment of the 100k streams, rivers, and ditches GIS layer, and it looks like there is roughly 231 linear miles of rivers, streams and ditches above the Ramsey dam that would be opened up to fish migration by removal of the dam...including a bunch of wetlands, etc.

Thanks,

Craig

Craig Soupir

From: [Becky Enfield](#)
Subject: FW: Pigs Eye Lake Questions
Date: Monday, September 17, 2018 10:20:24 AM
Attachments: [00-Pigs Eye Lake Ramsey County Report Final.pdf](#)

Members,

Please see the follow up information below regarding HRE 10. Also, attached is the Pig's Eye Lake Feasibility study.

Thank you,

Becky Enfield
Commission Assistant
Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
651-284-6430
Becky.enfield@Isohc.leg.mn

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

From: McFarlane, Aaron M CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) [<mailto:Aaron.M.McFarlane@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, September 6, 2018 5:02 PM
To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@Isohc.leg.mn>
Cc: Campbell, Nathan J CIV (US) <Nathan.J.Campbell@usace.army.mil>; Deen, Angela M CIV USARMY CEMVP (US) <Angela.M.Deen@usace.army.mil>; Yonke, Scott <scott.yonke@co.ramsey.mn.us>
Subject: Pigs Eye Lake Questions

Mr. Johnson,

Thank you and all of the council and staff for your time today. I wanted to follow up with you on the question you mentioned in passing after lunch regarding funding.

The authority this project is proposed under is the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 204, for beneficial use of dredged material. The Section 204 authority is set up to encourage the Corps to use dredged material for aquatic ecosystem restoration in partnership with local sponsors. Here's how it works:

The cost that the Corps Navigation Channel O&M program would normally incur for managing the dredged material (sand) is called the "Base Plan." In a case like this where there is a beneficial use project proposing to use that material, the Base Plan funding that would have been spent on managing the sand that will be used for constructing the Pigs Eye Islands is instead directed toward the restoration project (in this case, ~\$3.2 million from O&M). So, there isn't a direct financial benefit to the O&M program, because the same funding would be spent. (However, this does provide an additional in-kind benefit to the restoration project because it eliminates the need to purchase fill material to construct the project).

Then, the remainder of the cost is split 65/35 between funding from the CAP 204 appropriations and the local sponsor. (So, in this case, the Federal CAP 204 program would cover an additional ~\$8 million). The remainder is the local sponsor share, which is the ~\$4.3 Million requested from LSOHC. Table 12 in Chapter 6.6 of the attached report summarizes project costs.

I hope that clarifies where the Federal dollars are coming from in this proposal. Should you or other members of the staff or council have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We may also be able to guide you to locations within the report or appendices to answer additional questions.

Thanks again for your time and consideration, Aaron

Aaron McFarlane
Biologist
St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers
tel. 651-290-5660
aaron.m.mcfarlane@usace.army.mil

From: [Sandy Smith](#)
To: [Becky Enfield](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Lake Pepin follow-up?
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 2:32:16 PM

From: Rylee Main <Rylee.Main@lakepepinlegacyalliance.com>
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 2:17 PM
To: Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: Re: FW: Lake Pepin follow-up?

Hi Sandy,

Our feasibility study is not as far along as the Pig's Eye project, so the Corps has yet to publish a report. The EIS will be part of the feasibility study, which we expect to have sometime in early 2019. Right now we are finalizing a few decisions on project features based on floodplain impact, wind models, etc. and hope to have a draft report available for public comment before the end of the year.

I apologize that I can't provide this sooner.

Let me know if there are any other questions I can answer!

Thank you,

Rylee

On Fri, Sep 14, 2018 at 1:35 PM Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn> wrote:

Rylee -

Is this something that you can get us today?

From: Julie Blackburn <julieablackburn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 12:12 PM
To: Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.leg.mn>; Becky Enfield <Becky.Enfield@commissions.leg.state.mn.us>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>
Subject: Lake Pepin follow-up?

Did the Lake Pepin folks get back to us about the EAW/EIS or feasibility study?

--

Rylee Main
Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance
Executive Director
630-806-9909
rylee.main@lakepepinlegacyalliance.com

From: [Becky Enfield](mailto:Becky.Enfield)
Subject: FW: Isohc roving crew response
Date: Friday, September 14, 2018 8:24:48 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Members, please see below.

From: Hoch, Greg (DNR) <greg.hoch@state.mn.us>
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 12:06 PM
To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@isohc.leg.mn>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@isohc.leg.mn>; Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@isohc.leg.mn>
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Lien, Ricky (DNR) <ricky.lien@state.mn.us>; Lueth, Bryan K (DNR) <bryan.lueth@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Isohc roving crew response

Joe,

Hopefully this will address your questions.

ML signifies the year of the LSOHC appropriation while FY identifies the years each appropriation is applied to.

As you can see we've been working with a staggered 3 year rotation. We ask for 5 years each year, which would give us fewer appropriations to manage with for the roving crew in the long-term, as well as make it easier to recruit and retain great staff. Historically, though, we have cut them back to 3 years when we redo the budget for the final allocation based on Council member recommendations.

If you have any additional questions or clarifications, please let us know.

Thanks, Ricky and Greg

Area Covered	Station Location	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Region 1 Roving Crew (NW)	Glacial Ridge NWR	ML16	ML16	ML16	ML19*	ML19*	ML19*	ML19*	ML19*
Region 3 Roving Crew (SE)	Vermillion Highlands WMA		ML17	ML17	ML17	ML20**	ML20**	ML20**	ML20**
Region 4 Roving Crew (SW)	Lac Qui Parle WMA	ML15	ML15	ML18	ML18	ML18	ML21**	ML21**	ML21**
Proposed SW Crew	Windom or Talcot				ML19*	ML19*	ML19*	ML19*	ML19*

Proposed this year (*)

To be Proposed in Future (**)

From: Joe Pavelko [<mailto:Joe.Pavelko@isohc.leg.mn>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Lien, Ricky (DNR) <ricky.lien@state.mn.us>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@isohc.leg.mn>
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Lueth, Bryan K (DNR) <bryan.lueth@state.mn.us>; Hoch, Greg (DNR) <greg.hoch@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Isohc roving crew response

Thanks Ricky.

A few questions...

1. Is there a way to show the funding each roving crew has in place? For example, how long does the ML18 funding last for the region 4 crew? Out to 2020? Could you produce a graph with a timeline that shows how the 3 crews have been funded? That may help the Council better visualize what is going on. I attached a sketch....
2. On the same graph can you include the potential 4th roving crew (I believe its SW MN).

I think a visual like this will go a long way for the Council.

Thanks!

Joe Pavelko
Assistant Director
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-7142
Joe.pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn

From: Lien, Ricky (DNR) [<mailto:ricky.lien@state.mn.us>]

Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 3:07 PM

To: Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.leg.mn>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn>

Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR) <grant.wilson@state.mn.us>; Lueth, Bryan K (DNR) <bryan.lueth@state.mn.us>; Hoch, Greg (DNR) <greg.hoch@state.mn.us>

Subject: Isohc roving crew response

Joe and Mark,

The attached document attempts to answer questions about the work and funding of the Roving Habitat Crews. We would be glad to answer any other questions that come up. Also, our Roving Habitat Crew leaders are willing to provide information or join LSOHC meetings whenever possible and they're articulate and passionate spokesmen for the work they accomplish, as shown by Jason Ekstein last week at the LSOHC hearing.

Thanks for the chance to provide this information. Have a good day.

Ricky

Ricky Lien

Wetland Habitat Team Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
e-mail: ricky.lien@state.mn.us
office phone: 651-259-5227



Location of the Regions 1, 3, and 4 Roving Habitat Crews



Background

Roving Habitat Crews are located in Regions 1 (Mentor), 3 (Vermillion-Highlands WMA), and 4 (Lac qui Parle WMA). Each Roving Habitat Crew consists of one crew leader and 8 crew members.

The crews strive to allocate 25% of their time and resources to wetland habitat enhancement and 75% to prairie enhancement.

Funding

Region 1 Roving Habitat Crew

Fiscal Year	OHF Appropriation Used
FY13	ML12 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY14	ML12 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY15	ML12 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY16	ML12 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY17	ML16 Prairie Habitat ML16 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY18	ML16 Prairie Habitat ML16 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY19	ML16 Prairie Habitat ML16 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement

Region 3 Roving Habitat Crew

Fiscal Year	OHF Appropriation Used
FY13	ML12 Prairie Habitat
FY14	ML12 Prairie Habitat
FY15	ML12 Prairie Habitat
FY16	ML15 Prairie Habitat ML15 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY17	ML15 Prairie Habitat ML15 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY18	ML15 Prairie Habitat ML17 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY19	ML17 Prairie Habitat ML17 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement

Region 4 Roving Habitat Crew

Fiscal Year	OHF Appropriation Used
FY12	ML11 Prairie Habitat
FY13	ML11 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY14	ML13 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY15	ML13 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY16	ML15 Prairie Habitat ML12 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY17	ML15 Prairie Habitat ML15 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY18	ML15 Prairie Habitat ML15 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement
FY19	ML18 Prairie Habitat ML18 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement