

Q and A – Hearing Follow Up Questions

<p>PA 09 Heron Lake Please provide the answer to the questions posed by members regarding the percentage of acres in the proposed area (watershed) that are currently under protection. Please also, if possible, provide a map depicting where those currently protected parcels are.</p>	<p>See attached memo and map</p>
<p>FA 03 Northern Forest Habitat Conservation – Members request a map of the parcels in the City of Duluth where there are riparian lands to be part of the “swap”.</p>	<p>See attached memo and map</p>
<p>WRE01 Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement – Ricky Lien Members request a cost explanation of the helicopter use and the age of the helicopter that has the spray unit attached to it. We will be forwarding the answers to members upon receipt so that they have it in time for allocation deliberation, thank you.</p>	<p>The helicopter we use is an Enstrom, (made in Michigan), which was purchased in 2006. It would be nice to use a newer, and especially, bigger helicopter for cattail spraying, but the Enstrom is what’s available. Our hourly rate for using this helicopter is \$750 and is determined by averaging the last 3 years of hourly operating costs, basically maintenance and fuel. This number does not include pilot wages, which are paid separately. Also, hourly rate we pay does NOT include funding for future replacement. While that is done for many fleet vehicles used by the state such as cars and trucks, generally aircraft are purchased with money appropriated from the Capital and they are a long term assets.</p>
<p>HA 02 Metro Big Rivers – MLT – Wayne Ostlie Members request an explanation and information as to how the stewardship funds are invested?</p>	<p>See attached memo</p>
<p>HA04 Fisheries Habitat Protection –Northern Waters Land Trust How many FTE are represented in the \$214,000 personnel request in MLT budget and share the survey fish data that has been collected.</p>	<p>The Minnesota Land Trust personnel line should read 0.75 FTEs each year for 3 years for a total of \$214,000. I'm copying Bob Karls who might know about the fish survey data.</p> <p>Fisheries data document is attached. The question on the "effectiveness and results" of the conservation easements and the watershed protection was the focus of member</p>

	<p>Fabian's question and in my discussion with Rep. Fabian we referenced the longer term outcomes being measured by fish census data and the water temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles in the Cold Water Lakes. That data is obtained during the DNR census and the profiling activity and those measurements are the long term outcome of the watershed protection actions we are taking.</p> <p>Our more immediate target to achieve those outcomes is the 75% protection of the targeted watersheds. Attached I have provided a file with a summary of the level of protection and the tracking we are doing to measure accomplishment. You can see in the attached file some successes, and the work we have left on several lakes within our targeted counties. We use this information, in part, to focus our efforts.</p> <p>Bob Karls NWLTL Board 612-850-3811</p>
<p>HA 08 Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program Kristin Mauer Members request information on Independence Lake area Livestock FeedLot(s) and the two landowners having run off into the lake.</p>	<p>See attached information</p>



Heron Lake Watershed District

PO Box 345, Heron Lake, MN 56137

507-793-2462

Email: jvoit@hlwdonline.org

Web: www.hlwdonline.org

Memorandum

TO: Sandy Smith, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
FROM: Jan Voit, District Administrator
DATE: September 10, 2019

As requested, I am providing information regarding the acres that are currently protected within the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD).

- DNR Wildlife Management Areas: 1,634 acres
- USFWS Easements: 971 acres
- USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas: 2,781 acres
- RIM/CREP Easements: 5,788 acres
- HLWD Ownership: 27 acres
- TOTAL: 25,886 acres protected which equates to nine percent of the watershed

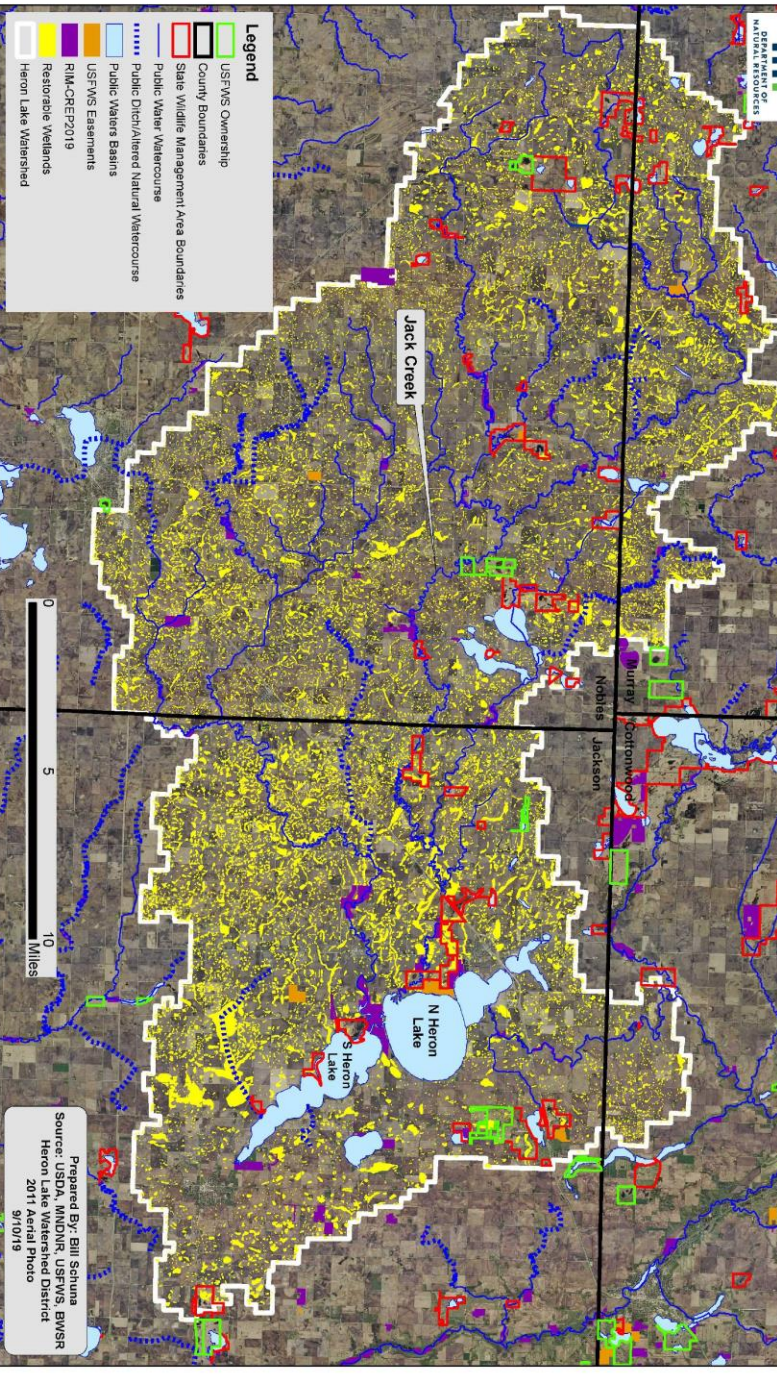
The Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership is the first phase of concerted efforts to protect and restore prairie and wetland habitats within the Heron Lake watershed. This effort is unanimously supported by the Board of Managers of the HLWD and the Heron Lake Waterfowl Working Group.

The HLWD and other local, state, and federal government partners will begin the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) process in early 2020. In 1W1P, we intend to address habitat protection and restoration in addition to water quality. Work done through the Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership would be a perfect kickoff to 1W1P implementation efforts.

Thank you again for your consideration of the Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership.



Heron Lake Watershed Restorable Wetlands



Legend

- USFWS Ownership
- County Boundaries
- State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
- Public Water Watercourse
- Public Ditch/Altered Natural Watercourse
- Public Waters Basins
- USFWS Easements
- RIM-CREP2019
- Restorable Wetlands
- Heron Lake Watershed



Prepared By: Bill Schuna
 Source: USDA, MNDNR, USFWS, BWSR
 Heron Lake Watershed District
 9/10/19



MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Johnson, Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Kris Larson, Executive Director, Minnesota Land Trust

Date: September 9, 2019

Re: FA 03 Northern Forest Habitat Conservation

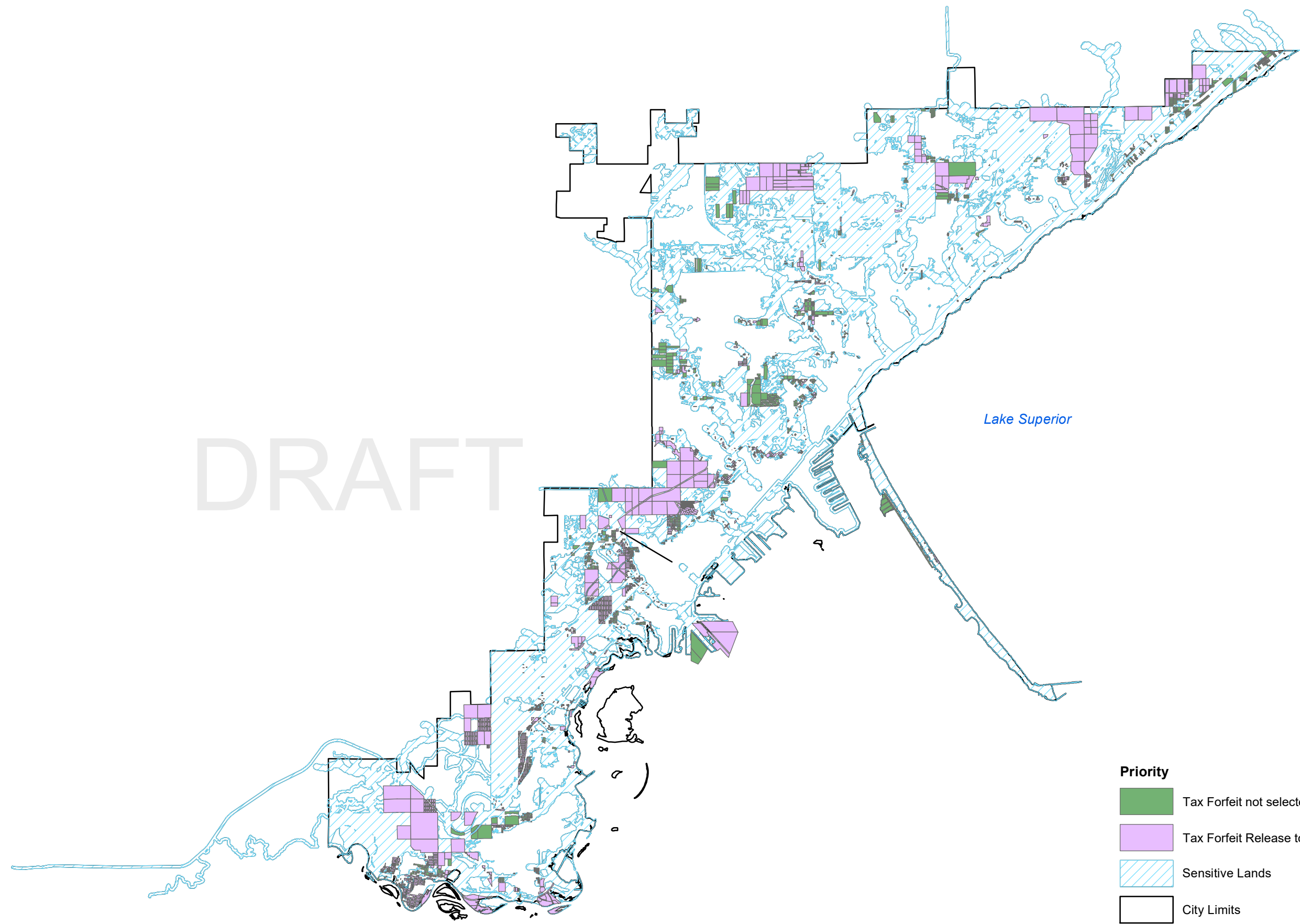
At the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council meeting on September 4, 2019, council members asked for an illustration of tax forfeit parcels within the City of Duluth that could be released by St. Louis County. Please find the attached map which illustrates which tax forfeit parcels fall within the City's outdoor recreation and stormwater lands overlay. The sensitive lands overlay represents the areas where the City prioritizes conservation purposes as part of Duluth's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Although the strategic alignment of public land ownership within Duluth provides additional permanent conservation benefit, please note this effort is only indirectly linked to the Northern Forest Habitat Conservation Proposal. *As we described in the hearing, release of any tax forfeit lands to the City of Duluth would be completed by an independent process that includes further County Board and City Council approvals. No Outdoor Heritage Fund funds would be used to support this transaction and these lands are not included in any of the proposal outputs.*





However, because the St. Louis County Board resolution endorsing our application for OHF funding linked the outcomes together we included a description of this additional realignment of public land ownership in the proposal and in our hearing in an effort to be fully transparent. The resolution states an equal value of tax forfeited land may be conveyed to the City of Duluth following the successful acquisition of private forest lands. The City and County have agreed that any release of tax forfeit lands would be done in direct proportion (dollar-for-dollar, not acre-for-acre) to the appraised value of Potlatch lands actually protected by the Northern Forest Habitat Conservation Project to alleviate some of the loss of revenue the County might see from release of tax forfeit lands.

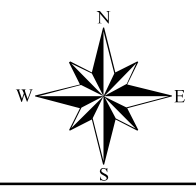
We would like to reiterate, the Northern Forest Habitat Conservation project (FA 03) goals are simply to acquire and protect up to 10,200 acres of at-risk Potlatch lands in St. Louis County for habitat conservation. If the Council would like to see the description of permanent protection of additional habitat and outdoor access within the City be removed from the proposal, or any subsequent accomplishment plan, to improve clarity for Outdoor Heritage Fund activities and outputs we are willing to comply.

DRAFT

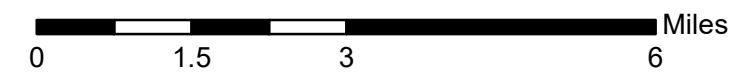


Priority

-  Tax Forfeit not selected
-  Tax Forfeit Release to City
-  Sensitive Lands
-  City Limits



Proposed Parcel Priority



Sources: St. Louis County Auditor's Office - Parcel information and Ownership; St. Louis County Land and Minerals Office - Tax Forfeit Lands; City of Duluth GIS Office - Parks, Trails, Building Shore land Setback
Note: The City of Duluth has tried to ensure that the information contained in this map or electronic document is accurate. The City of Duluth makes no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability. This drawing/data is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. The drawing/data is a compilation of records, information and data located in various City, County and State offices and other sources affecting the area shown and is to be used for reference purposes only. The City of Duluth shall not be liable for errors contained within this data provided or for any damages in connection with the use of this information contained within.
The City of Duluth requires that this map/data not be redistributed to any party in whole or in part, including any derivative works of products generated by combining the data with other data, unless authorized by the City of Duluth GIS office.



MEMORANDUM

To: Mark Johnson, Executive Director, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Kris Larson, Executive Director, Minnesota Land Trust

Date: September 9, 2019

Re: Conservation Easement Stewardship Fund Investments

At the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council meeting on September 4, 2019, council members asked for clarification on how the Minnesota Land Trust conservation easement stewardship funds are invested. Please see the Land Trust's response below.

STEWARDSHIP FUND PURPOSE:

As part of its Land Trust Accreditation responsibilities, the requirements of IRS Code, state funding requirements and its own organizational policies, the Minnesota Land Trust has established a *Stewardship and Enforcement Fund* which provides the Land Trust with the "resources and commitment" to monitor and enforce its conservation easements in perpetuity. This Fund allows the Land Trust to monitor every property with a conservation easement annually, address hundreds of hours in requests from landowners, communicate with the surrounding local governments, provide guidance on the proper management of the property and legally enforce easements as necessary. This fund is only used for stewardship-related purposes.

DETERMINING STEWARDSHIP COSTS:

The Land Trust has determined what it will cost to administer, monitor and enforce each easement in perpetuity through a Conservation Easement Stewardship Cost Analysis. This analysis determines the annual costs associated with each "typical" easement and then computes what the Land Trust needs in a one-time investment to take an annual draw sufficient to cover these costs plus costs to

enforce the easement when necessary. This cost analysis is updated periodically and is routinely submitted to the LSOHC Staff for their records.

FUND INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT:

In order to maximize the Fund's effectiveness and resiliency, the Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Fund is managed as a pooled investment strategy. The Land Trust documents for the DNR the transfer of OHF funds into this Fund whenever it receives a reimbursement for a project. This Fund is managed in an indexed portfolio with Vanguard, with the parameters of the investment balance set by Minnesota Land Trust's finance and investment policies. The Land Trust takes a quarterly draw from this fund to cover the annual expenses outlined above. The Land Trust also supplements the costs of annual stewardship activity with annual operating fundraising, thereby leveraging additional private donations.

FUND OVERSIGHT:

This Fund is overseen and managed in the following manner:

1. MLT Board of Directors: Ultimately, the Board of Directors is responsible for MLT's fiscal health and oversight. The Board approves expected draws from the Fund in its annual budgeting process and sets investment and expenditure policy.
2. MLT Finance Committee: The Finance Committee reviews the investments bi-monthly and makes recommendations as to any changes to the strategies within the guidelines of the Board policy. The Committee also reviews the operating statement and overall balance of the Fund.
3. Professional Investment Manager: MLT secures the services of a professional investment manager through Vanguard to make recommendations and execute as directed by the Finance Committee and Board of Directors regarding the Stewardship Fund investments.
4. MLT Staff: The Finance Director and Executive Director manage the day-to-day expenditure issues w/in the guidelines of the budget and other specific board direction.
5. External Auditor: The Land Trust secures the services of a professional audit firm to conduct an annual audit of all Land Trust's financial management and oversight. This audit is supplied on an annual basis to both LCCMR and LSOHC.
6. State Legislative Auditor: In 2013, the Legislative Auditor examined the issue of state-funded easement programs. One of the issues they reviewed was how annual stewardship activity is handled, how it is funded, and how these funds are managed. This report is on file with the Legislative Auditor.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Land Trust provides a report every fall to the LSOHC which includes information on how the Land Trust's stewardship investments are performing. These are on file with LSOHC staff and the Legislative Library. The Land Trust also supplies its annual financial audit as part of this report. The requirements of Land Trust Accreditation and Land Trust Standards and Practices regarding easement stewardship funds can be found on the Land Trust Accreditation and Land Trust Alliance respective websites. Finally, as suggested above, the Legislative Auditors report from 2013 has additional information regarding easement stewardship programs and investments.

The Minnesota Land Trust would be happy to provide any additional information on the above content as requested.

Minor Wshd Name	Primary Cisco Lakes	County	% Protected (w/easements)
From Benedict L	Benedict	Cass-Hubbard	93.7%
Unknown DNR Minor Watershe	Little Thunder	Cass	92.5%
Unknown DNR Minor Watershe	Man	Cass	80.8%
Washburn L	Washburn	Cass	80.3%
La Salle Cr	LaSalle	Hubbard-Clearwater	76.6%
Revoir Cr	Spearhead	Hubbard	74.0%
Tenmile L	Ten Mile, Portage	Cass-Hubbard	76.2%
Fox Cr	East-West Fox Lakes	Cass-Crow Wing	83.2%
Kabekona L	Kabekona	Hubbard	66.5%
From Girl L	Girl	Cass	74.4%
Wabedo L	Wabedo	Cass	69.3%
From Little Boy L	Little Boy	Cass	70.4%
From Howard L	Howard	Cass-Hubbard	61.3%
Cross L	Rush-Hen	Crow Wing	67.3%
Vermillion R	Little Vermilion	Cass	63.7%
From Thunder L	Thunder, Bass	Cass	67.9%
Lower Whitefish L	Whitefish, Bertha, Island-Loon, Pig	Crow Wing	64.1%
Unknown DNR Minor Watershe	Long	Cass	65.4%
Pelican L	Pelican	Crow Wing	63.6%
Crooked Cr	Roosevelt	Cass-Crow Wing	64.5%
From Round L	Round	Crow Wing-Aitkin	64.6%
Boy R	Cooper	Cass	63.7%
From Big Portage L	Deep Portage	Cass	60.8%
Little Sand L Tw	East Crooked	Hubbard	58.7%
Inlet From Big Trout L	Big Trout Lake	Crow Wing	51.4%
Unknown DNR Minor Watershe	Long	Aitkin	53.0%
From May L	May, Long	Cass-Hubbard	53.0%
Spirit L	Tame Fish	Crow Wing-Aitkin	49.1%
Crow Wing R	Eleventh Crow Wing	Cass-Hubbard	53.8%
Big Sand L Tw	Big Sand	Hubbard	51.3%
Ripple R	Crooked	Crow Wing-Aitkin	49.2%
Garrison Cr	Borden, Kenney	Crow Wing	47.3%
Cedar Cr	Cedar	Crow Wing-Aitkin	42.8%
Pleasant L	Pleasant	Cass	43.9%
Cedar Bk	Portage	Crow Wing	37.8%
Potato R	Blue	Hubbard	35.8%
Hay Cr	Lower Hay	Cass-Crow Wing	34.0%
Pelican Bk	Ossawinnamakee, Kimble, Star, Clea	Crow Wing	36.3%
Long L	Long (by Park Rapids)	Hubbard	19.7%
Eighth Crow Wing L	<Null>	Hubbard	18.0%

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

As requested by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the following describes our knowledge of water quality improvement efforts around Lake Independence.

Water Quality

Lake grade assessments of water quality in Lake Independence has been steady (at about a 'C') over the past 10 years.

Current Activities

- Baker Park Ravine Stabilization Project (Baker Park Reserve) will reduce phosphorus loading to Lake Independence by 134 pounds per year, 15% of the watershed phosphorus load allocation. This project is funded in part by a Clean Water Fund grant. Construction of this project will occur during the 2019-2020 winter.
- Lake Ardmore Subwatershed Assessment BMP Project will complete three projects – two in the channel between Lake Ardmore and Lake Independence and one at the nearby boat launch. These projects will stabilize 70 feet of streambank erosion, restore 160 feet of lake shore, and install a carp barrier.
- Rural outreach: Hennepin County recently added Rural Conservationist staff to add capacity around rural outreach in northern and western sections of our county. For the first time in many years, agricultural best management practices are being actively promoted and developed in our county. Much of this work is in the area of Lake Independence.

Past Activities

- In 2007 and 2008, Hennepin County worked with landowners in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed to reduce pollutant loading to Lake Independence through a Clean Water Legacy Accelerated grant. The County contacted all feedlot owners in the watershed and worked with landowners to write livestock nutrient management plans, convert to off-site hauling of manure, install one compost bin, exclusion fencing, and barn rain gutters. Through this program, Hennepin County also assisted homeowners to stabilize and restore shoreline areas, add rain gardens and ponds, and stabilize gullies. We estimate that this effort prevents 67.2 pounds of phosphorus per year from reaching Lake Independence.
- The Council inquired about a feedlot located northwest of Lake Independence – we are aware of two properties that fit this description, but have been unable to find definitive information about a project that the Council has been involved with in the past. Hennepin County has worked with one of these properties to improve management practices – manure is no longer spread on nearby field and the landowner has transitioned to an enclosed rather than open feedlot system. Buffers are also now in place on this property. A second property, a horse farm has shown no interest in cooperating on BMPs despite multiple attempts by County staff.

**Pioneer-Sarah Creek
Watershed Management
Organization**

**Lake Independence Nutrient Management
Program**

Water of Concern

Lake Independence

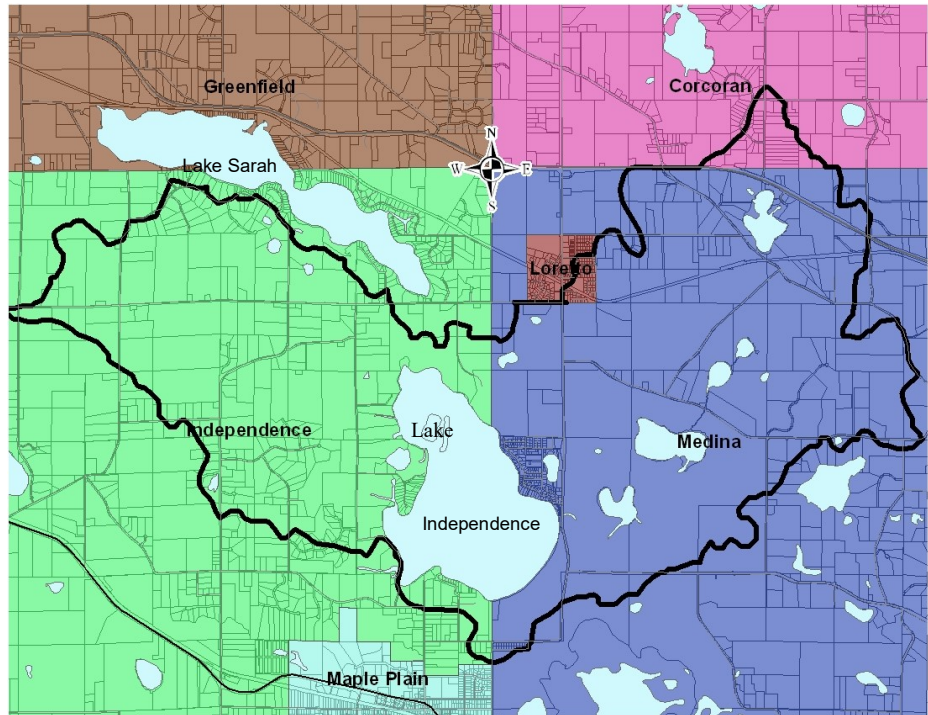
Impairment

Phosphorus

**CWL Funding by
Category**

Technical Assistance Funds	
SSTS Funds	\$0
Professional Development	\$0
Hired Positions	\$0
Total TA Funds	\$53,000.00
Implementation Funds	
AgBMP Loans	\$0
CWAG Funds	\$357,000.00
Leveraged Dollars	\$0
Total Imp. Funding	\$357,000.00
Total CWL Funding	\$410,000.00

Lake Independence Watershed Area



Project Description

In 2002 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency listed Lake Independence as impaired for aquatic recreation. The main cause of the impairment is excessive nutrients in the lake. The lake receives runoff from a 7,631 acre predominantly agricultural watershed which contains portions of three municipalities, Medina, Independence and Loreto. Because of rapid urbanization, hobby farm uses, livestock and agriculture runoff, the lake has seriously declined in water quality. Algal blooms now occur throughout most of the summer season, negatively impacting recreational use. These issues were addressed by community stakeholders and a study with an implementation plan was developed to pinpoint the causes and solutions to the problem.

The Lake Independence nutrient management program was developed to assist in solving the nutrient problems with the lake by cleaning up surface water runoff to decrease nutrient transport into the lake. It helps landowners in the lakes watershed with cost share assistance to install animal waste control and urban water quality practices that will reduce nutrients flowing into the lake and begin the healing process to the impairment of Lake Independence.

PROJECT CONTACT

James Kujawa
Phone: 612-348-7338

BWSR Contact

Marcey Westrick
Phone: 651-276-5976

Conservation Practices Implemented

Name of Conservation Practice(s) Installed	Number or Linear Feet Installed	Estimated Pollutant Load Reduction (Phosphorus)	Total Cost
Shoreline Restoration	23,660 sq. ft. (0.53 ac.)	26.5 lbs/ year	\$89,343.11
Shoreline Stabilization	695 ft.	19 lbs/year	\$123,377.84
Rain Gardens	3 gardens	3 lbs/year	\$30,843.20
Agriculture Projects	1-compost bin 700'-exclusion fence 90'-rain gutters	12.5 lbs/year	\$10,818.69
Pond Projects	6 ponds	3.1 lbs/year	\$312,491.40
Gully Control Projects	1212 ft.	3.1 lbs/year	\$67,861.81

Conservation Planning Activities

Name of Plan(s) Written	Number of Landowners Contacted	Number of Plans Written	Total Cost	Types of Practices Identified	Number of Practices Identified	Number of Practices Implemented
Livestock Nutrient Management	404/mailings 44/personal visits	3		Livestock manure and runoff control practices	9	3
Urban Development	30			Urban Runoff practices-	8	23
Ag Cropland	5	0		Buffer/ nutrient management/ structural	5	0

Contributing Partners: (List or copy from restoration implementation plan)

Partner	Description	Project Contribution	Leveraged Funds
Three Rivers Park Dist.		TMDL study/ implementation plan	\$50,000
Lake Association		Publicity, project leads	Time contribution
Hennepin Co.	Dept. of Environmental Services	Technical Assistance, NRICH	\$15,000.00/Time Contribution
Independence		Member City/Publicity	Postage/Time Contribution
Medina		Member City/Publicity	Postage/Time Contribution
MN Extension		Technical Assistance	Time Contribution
Association of Metropolitan Districts		Technical Assistance	Time Contribution

Project Informational/Educational Activities

Type of Activity	Newsletters, Brochures, Posters, Etc.	Other
Mailings/Flyers to all property owners in Lakeshed.	Mailer-March 2007 September 2007 March 2008 July 2008 July 2008	Project & kickoff meeting Announced expanded docket
Press Release	March 2007 September 2007 February 2008 March 2008 June 2008	
Newsletter Announcements		
• Independence	Summer 2008 Spring 2007 Fall 2007	
• Medina	Winter 2008 Aug/Sept. 08	
• Lake Independence Association	January 2007 June 2007 June 2008 July 2008 April 2009	
Project kickoff meeting	March 22, 2007	25 people in attendance.
Booth at Independence Heritage Days Festival	September 2007	Very good turn-out and interest.
Technical Advisor Committee meeting	September 25, 2008	Discussions with local pw/administrator/engineering staffs
Landowner luncheon program	March 15, 2008	8 landowners in attendance
Independence/Medina joint City Council presentation	January 2008	
Stakeholders Meeting	January 2007	
Commission Planning Session	August 2007 January 2008 February 2008	

Phosphorus Source	Proposed Phosphorus TMDL Reduction	Actual Phosphorus Reductions from CWLA Grant
Agricultural Cropland	284 Pounds	0
Animal Waste	370 Pounds	12.5 pounds
Urban Development	146 Pounds	54.7 pounds
Failing Individual Sewage Treatment Systems	8 Pounds	0
Loretto Sewage Treatment Facility	53 Pounds	0
Geese	11 Pounds	0

Project Photos, Additional Maps, or Conservation Practice



Johnson shoreline stabilization and restoration



Donaldson/Szarznski Shoreline Restoration



Camp Ihduhapi Gully Control Project.





Hasek Rain Garden



Hedeen/Ehramjian Rain Garden



Baker Campground Stormwater Pond and Gully Stabilization



**Zadeh Exclusion Fence
&
Compost Bin**



Bachtold Shoreline Stabilization



Palo/Lynch Gully Control

