

LSOHC Proposal
Question Responses
ML 2023/FY 2024

RESPONSE 1

From: Jon Schneider <jschneider@ducks.org>

Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 2:15 PM

To: david@dbhartwell.com

Cc: John Lindstrom <jlindstrom@ducks.org>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.mn.gov>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.mn.gov>; Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: WRE02 OHF Proposal Comment Response from DU

Dear LSOHC Chairman Hartwell,

Thanks for your review and comments on ML2023 OHF proposals. Prior to the LSOHC meeting tomorrow, I'm writing on behalf of DU and our regional biologist John Lindstrom to address your comment on our WRE02 "Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement and Restoration Initiative, Phase 9" proposal below (John will be our new DU proposal/grant manager for this OHF program, if funded):

"I believe the amounts listed in the other OHF appropriations table are not correct - at least related to the Shallow Lakes funding for DU."

I assume this pertains to the proposal question **"Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC?"** under **"Other OHF Appropriation Awards"** and table following it on page 8 of our proposal (attached). For context, we have always interpreted this question to pertain to the same OHF program or project to which the proposal pertains, and not to all past OHF appropriation awards, and thus answered it by only including information on OHF grants to DU for Phase 1-8 of this same "Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative" program, which totals about \$34 million to date. This does not include all past OHF grants to DU for other programs, which would be unwieldy and unclear if lumped together.

Our other "shallow lakes" related OHF proposal/program is "Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Protection & Restoration" Phase 1-10, which is our land acquisition/restoration program for MNDNR, which focuses on buying/restoring land on/near shallow lakes and/or land with wetlands (especially cropland restorable wetlands) adjacent to state WMAs. This program has separate grants totaling \$50 million to date. Please see list of all DU OHF grants attached.

Having said all that, we (me) did make a typo! For our 2010 appropriation, where DU received \$5,042,000 (all of which we spent), I unfortunately only listed \$2,417,000 as received/spent by mistake. I simply don't know what I was thinking or how I made that mistake, and I apologize - as far as I can tell, it is simply a typo. By way of this email I will ask Sandy Smith to inform me if there is a way to fix that typo, or otherwise note it as a typo for other Council members.

Thanks again for your thorough review of this and all proposals, and we sincerely appreciate your conservation dedication and feedback on our proposals. Sincerely, Jon (and John).

Jon Schneider, Manager of Conservation Programs - Minnesota

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Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative - Phase IX
ML 2023 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 05/26/2022

Proposal Title: Living Shallow Lakes & Wetlands Enhancement & Restoration Initiative - Phase IX

Funds Requested: \$13,700,000

Manager Information

Manager's Name: John Lindstrom

Title: Regional Biologist

Organization: Ducks Unlimited

Address: c/o U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Litchfield WMD Office 22274 615th Avenue

City: Litchfield, MN 55355

Email: jlindstrom@ducks.org

Office Number: 3206932849 ext. 8

Mobile Number: 3202128018

Fax Number:

Website: www.ducks.org

Location Information

County Location(s): Stevens, Pope, Traverse, Otter Tail, Todd, Freeborn, Big Stone, Swift, Douglas, Lincoln, Lyon, Lac qui Parle, Jackson, Martin, Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Kandiyohi, Morrison, Carver, Sherburne, Le Sueur, Mahnomen, Meeker, Marshall, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Watonwan, Steele, Murray, Brown, Scott, Nobles, Sibley, Grant, Becker and Renville.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban
- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Restore
- Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Wetlands
- Prairie

Narrative

Abstract

This Phase 9 request for Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes program will enhance or restore 3,000 acres of wetlands and adjacent prairie grasslands for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Minnesota DNR on public lands and private lands under permanent easement. DU biologists and engineers will design wetland restorations and water control structures for active management of shallow lake water levels to enhance their ecology for ducks, other wildlife, and people, primarily in SW Minnesota's Prairie Pothole Region. While DU staff will design restoration and enhancement projects, DU will hire private contractors to conduct restoration and enhancement

Design and Scope of Work

This Phase 9 of Ducks Unlimited's ongoing shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration conservation program will enhance or restore at least 3,000 acres of shallow lakes, wetlands, and prairie grasslands, primarily in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota. DU biologists work with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and Minnesota DNR field staff to restore and enhance wetlands on public land and under easement, and DU engineers design water level control structures to enhance degraded shallow lakes for DNR. Water control structures are used for temporary water level draw-downs to rejuvenate shallow lake ecology and productivity for wildlife. Restoration work and structures are constructed by private sector firms hired by DU and are managed by FWS/DNR. Adjacent grasslands may be enhanced with tree removal.

Shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration are top priority actions in all major conservation plans for Minnesota. Our work addresses the habitat goals identified in North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan, and Minnesota's Duck Recovery Plan which calls for the active management of 1,800 shallow lakes and restoring 64,000 wetlands to Minnesota's landscape. This work is time-sensitive because complex shallow lake enhancement projects take several years to design and implement, and because wetland restorations are critically needed for breeding waterfowl.

Healthy and abundant wetlands are required to sustain breeding and migrating waterfowl. Minnesota has lost approximately 90% of our prairie wetlands and 99% of native prairie grasslands around them. This has had a profound negative impact on breeding ducks and other prairie wetland wildlife here. Our remaining shallow lakes and wetlands are often those that were too deep to drain years ago, and now function as the core of Minnesota's remaining waterfowl habitat complexes. Unfortunately, these remaining wetland basins now receive the excessive nutrient-laden water runoff from an intensively drained and interconnected landscape through which invasive fish such as carp have improved access. As a result, many of our remaining wetlands and shallow lakes are turbid and degraded due to drainage they received and high, stabilized water levels in which nutrients collect and invasive fish proliferate. This results in stagnated aquatic wetland ecology and productivity, and wetland basins with few aquatic plants and invertebrates for birds to eat. This is especially detrimental to diving ducks and other wetland-dependent species that rely exclusively on aquatic plant and invertebrate foods within wetlands and shallow lakes to survive. These factors have caused a significant decline in Minnesota's once diverse waterfowl population, and as a result, in Minnesota's rich waterfowling traditions.

This funding request will support DU staff biologists and engineers who survey, design, and manage construction of shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration projects to improve public water shallow lakes and restore wetlands and grasslands, primarily in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota. Funding will also support

ongoing shallow lake technical assistance from DU staff to assess, survey, and design future enhancement and wetland projects for implementation under future OHF appropriations for this program.

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?

This proposal enhances shallow lakes and restores non-forested prairie wetlands, which are identified as critical habitats for many “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” listed in Minnesota’s “Tomorrow’s Habitat for the Wild & Rare: An Action Plan for Minnesota Wildlife.” Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring shallow lakes (page 273) include lesser scaup, northern pintail, common moorhen, least bittern, American bittern, marsh wren, and Virginia rail, along with being “important for many other species”. Specific species listed in the Action Plan as requiring emergent marshes (page 267) include least bittern, American bittern, marsh wren, and Virginia rail, and Forster’s terns are listed as requiring large deep-water marshes.

In addition to these specific wildlife species listed as SGCN examples in the Action Plan, shallow lakes and prairie wetlands will provide habitat of significant value for other species listed in Appendix B of the Action Plan too. Enhanced shallow lakes will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including: western grebe, black tern, northern harrier, trumpeter swan, common loon, bald eagle, Franklin’s gull, whimbrel, black-crowned night heron, American white pelican, horned grebe, red-necked grebe, eared grebe, and common tern. Restored prairie wetlands will provide habitat of significant value for other SGCN including: black tern, northern harrier, trumpeter swan, rusty blackbird and black-crowned night heron.

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

Most prairie wetlands have been drained and most shallow lakes degraded in southern Minnesota. Functioning wetland basins are the most important habitat variable for breeding ducks, and the most limiting factor for ducks in the prairie region of Minnesota. Similarly, healthy and productive shallow lakes are the limiting habitat type for diving ducks and most other migrating waterfowl species as they pass through Minnesota in fall and spring. To improve wetland conditions for both breeding and migrating waterfowl in Minnesota, it is imperative that we restore wetlands and enhance shallow lakes, especially in the Prairie Pothole Region of SW Minnesota.

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:

Ducks Unlimited uses science-based targeting to evaluate shallow lake and prairie wetland restorations in the Prairie Region, especially small wetland restorations that help improve prairie-wetland complexes for breeding ducks. Models such as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) “Thunderstorm Maps” and “Restorable Wetlands Inventory” help determine landscape importance for breeding waterfowl. We consider biological diversity and significance according to the Minnesota DNR County Biological Survey (MCBS). Several project examples include:

Indian Lake is a 377-acre priority shallow lake in Sibley County, identified as having a high level of biological significance, and as having moderate biodiversity significance by the MCBS. Ducks Unlimited has purchased and restored four properties around the lake in an effort to reduce agricultural runoff and improve water quality in Indian Lake, as well as provide increased habitat for waterfowl and other wetland- and grassland-dependent wildlife.

Hegg Lake is a 73-acre shallow lake in Douglas County, identified as having moderate biological significance. Surrounding Hegg Lake is Hegg Lake WMA which has moderate biodiversity significance. Both the WMA and the lake occur in a landscape that can currently support 40-60 breeding ducks per square mile.

Several federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) in west-central Minnesota are located in landscapes with outstanding biodiversity significance in large complexes of fee-title and protected private lands under permanent easement. Key parts of this landscape currently support 40-60 breeding duck pairs per square mile, with the potential to support over 100 breeding duck pairs per square mile once wetlands are restored.

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge Pool South Prairie 1, Southeast Prairie, and Yellow Bank South sites have over 50 acres of restorable wetlands in Lac qui Parle County. The refuge is home to several sites of outstanding, high, and moderate levels of biodiversity significance. The landscape is currently able to support 10-25 breeding duck pairs per square mile. These restored wetlands will provide additional habitat for birds throughout their annual cycle.

Which two sections of the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan are most applicable to this project?

- H4 Restore and protect shallow lakes
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

Which two other plans are addressed in this proposal?

- Long Range Duck Recovery Plan
- Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife

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

Ducks Unlimited's "Living Lakes" conservation initiative provides wetland engineering expertise to enhance shallow lakes and restore wetlands to directly support the goals of Minnesota DNR's Long-range Duck Recovery Plan and objectives of its Shallow Lakes Program Plan ("Managing Minnesota Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife").

These plans call for maximizing management of all 200 shallow lakes that are designated wildlife management lakes and/or within state WMAs and federal WPAs/NWRs along with the approximately 1,553 shallow lakes with a portion of their shorelines under state, federal, or county ownership for high quality waterfowl habitat, and increasing management of the other 201 shallow lakes with public access. Overall, these plans call for the active management of 1,800 shallow lakes and restoring 600,000 acres of wetlands in 64,000 basins in Minnesota.

This work also supports the goals of Minnesota's Prairie Conservation Plan and NAWMP.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Forest / Prairie Transition

- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

Metro / Urban

- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

Prairie

- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes

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:

Ducks Unlimited professional engineers and biologists design and install robust steel and concrete water level control structures that provide long-lasting shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration tools to Minnesota DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other partner's field managers. These water structures are essential to enhancing shallow lakes and controlling outflows, and must be engineered to a very high level in order to withstand time and environmental pressures while providing wildlife managers with the means to regularly conduct temporary water level draw-downs to enhance their aquatic ecology to ensure optimal ecological condition for ducks. Similarly, smaller wetland restorations often involve complex drainage systems that require professional engineering to survey, design, and restore without negatively affecting upstream and downstream private landowners. Since 1984, Ducks Unlimited has provided professional wetland engineering services to our state and federal wildlife conservation agency partners.

What other fund may contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

Does this proposal include leveraged funding?

Yes

Explain the leverage:

DU strives to use all of our non-federal expense to leverage federal NAWCA grant funds to further our conservation mission. However, NAWCA is highly competitive and complex, and proposal success is uncertain. Nonetheless, DU works closely with Minnesota DNR, and NGO partners to offer recent past state OHF acquisitions as non-federal match to leverage federal NAWCA funds to help fund shallow lake and wetland restoration projects. DU intends to partner with DNR and other NGOs to pursue NAWCA grant funds in the future to help implement projects funded through this appropriation.

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

This funding requested, if approved, will supplement traditional funding for Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes Initiative, and will not supplant or substitute for traditional funding previously used for this purpose by Ducks Unlimited.

Non-OHF Appropriations

Year	Source	Amount
2009	DU private and federal USFWS and NAWCA grant funds	\$1,111,000
2010	DU private and federal USFWS and NAWCA grant funds	\$1,205,400

2012	DU private and federal USFWS and NAWCA grant funds	\$839,300
2014	DU private and federal USFWS and NAWCA grant funds	\$731,000
2017	DU private and federal USFWS and NAWCA grant funds	\$300,000 (ongoing)
2018	DU private and federal USFWS and NAWCA grant funds	\$250,000 (ongoing)
2021	DU private, federal USFWS MCBF, and NAWCA grant funds	\$100,000 (ongoing)

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

Shallow lake enhancement water control structures and prairie wetland restorations are implemented for state and federal agency conservation partners on land under their state or federal long-term control and management responsibility. Thus, all projects constructed will be sustained and maintained by conservation partners like the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which are the two primary wildlife habitat management agencies in Minnesota.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2024	DNR Game & Fish Account, OHF for DNR Shallow Lakes Program and DNR Roving Crews	DNR Area Wildlife and Shallow Lakes Program Staff will assess shallow lake and wetland conditions following initial water level draw-downs, and document for management consideration	Every 3-8 years, depending on wetland conditions, water control structures will be used to actively manage and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands via temporary water level draw-down to remove fish, stimulate aquatic plants, and rejuvenate their overall aquatic ecology, which includes stimulating aquatic invertebrate production. Some basins may need pumping via DNR pump purchased by DU via previous 2012 OHF grant.	DNR assess ecological conditions again following subsequent temporary water level draw-downs and refilling management treatments, and communicate results and questions or concerns to DU.

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

Ducks Unlimited proposes to restore/enhance 2,500 acres of wetlands and shallow lakes, and 500 acres of prairie grasslands to improve their ecological function for waterfowl and many other species of wetland-dependent wildlife. Science-based guidance provided by Minnesota DNR indicates that 300 acres of restored prairie wetlands and 2,200 acres of enhanced wetlands and shallow lakes may be estimated to:

Support approximately 1,012 pairs of mallard ducks based on the biological model of the Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan that indicates one pair of mallards needs 2.47 acres of wetlands with adequate adjacent upland nesting habitat to support population growth; and,

Support at least 17 or more pairs of trumpeter swans assuming one pair for every 150 wetland acres, depending

on the size, type, and number of wetland basins restored or enhanced.

In addition, using assumptions of the Upper Mississippi River Great Lakes Joint Venture of the NAWMP that large "aquatic bed" wetlands such as shallow lakes provide ducks with 474,791 kcal/acre of energy-rich foods, and using an energy requirement estimate of 309 kcal/bird/day for an average size duck, DU scientists estimate 2,500 acres of shallow lake and wetland work completed through this program could provide up to 3,841,351 "duck-use-days" of habitat in a year. This estimated habitat enhancement outcome could therefore accommodate 128,045 ducks for 30 days, or 64,022 ducks for 60 days, during spring and fall.

How will the program directly involve, engage, and benefit BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and diverse communities:

Ducks Unlimited conserves wetlands for waterfowl and people alike. Our habitat projects restore natural infrastructure, which helps to alleviate society's climate impacts and provide clean water for BIPOC communities, who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of wetland loss and climate change.

Wetlands recharge groundwater in aquifers that provide clean, dependable water supplies while removing pollutants and reducing downstream flooding. Generational wealth in BIPOC communities is compromised by a lack of natural infrastructure such as wetlands. BIPOC community resiliency is enhanced by the function of wetlands and adjacent grassland habitats that clean water and help absorb impacts from severe weather events. Public waters also provide numerous opportunities for fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, birding, and outdoor education for BIPOC communities that may not otherwise have access to natural open spaces. Indigenous communities may benefit from DU wetland enhancements and restorations that create suitable conditions for wild rice to proliferate. Wetlands deliver a return on investment that helps to support the health, resiliency, and well-being of BIPOC communities.

Restoring wetlands in the Mississippi River watershed benefits BIPOC communities who draw their water from the river such as Minneapolis, St. Paul, and St. Cloud. Minneapolis alone draws 21 billion gallons of water a year from the Mississippi River to produce 57 million gallons of drinking water each day.

DU works with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and also with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge to enhance Chaska Lake in Carver County and other wetlands near BIPOC communities. The Refuge connects the vibrant cultures of the Twin Cities metro with the diversity of wildlife and habitat along the Minnesota River. With more than 46 miles of trails and two visitor centers, the Refuge welcomes visitors to enjoy the variety of outdoor experiences offered. Established in 1976 by motivated residents, the Refuge preserved wildlife resources threatened by commercial and industrial development. Now, the Refuge enhances urban habitat while offering community programs, environmental education, and access to nature on the edge of the city as well as hunting, fishing and hiking in the wilder stretches of the Minnesota River.

Activity Details

Requirements

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

Yes

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?

Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15?

Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- WMA
- WPA
- Permanently Protected Conservation Easements
- Public Waters
- Refuge Lands

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program?

No

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars in the past through LSOHC?

Yes

Approp Year	Approp Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Leverage Reported in AP	Leverage Realized to Date	Acres Affected in AP	Acres Affected to Date	Complete/Final Report Approved?
2021	\$3,960,000	\$1,186,229	\$670,000	\$100,000	2,200	243	No
2018	\$3,740,000	\$3,561,357	\$140,000	\$250,000	1,050	1,129	No
2017	\$4,716,000	\$4,714,370	\$300,000	\$300,000	2,050	2,835	No
2014	\$4,910,000	\$4,888,300	\$110,000	\$731,000	4,000	6,011	Yes
2012	\$4,490,000	\$4,490,000	\$460,700	\$839,300	1,500	3,086	Yes
2010	\$2,417,000	\$2,417,000	-	\$1,205,400	958	1,226	Yes
2009	\$2,528,000	\$2,528,000	-	\$1,111,100	6,000	6,882	Yes

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Recon projects with DNR and FWS partners and begin engineering survey and design of wetland restorations and shallow lake enhancements	June 2024
Complete some small wetland restorations and some larger shallow lake enhancements	June 2026
Complete remaining small wetland projects and larger shallow lake enhancement water control structure installations	June 2028

Budget**Totals**

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$1,080,000	\$250,000	DU Private & federal NAWCA, MBCF, and Circle of Flight	\$1,330,000
Contracts	\$12,000,000	\$400,000	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	\$12,400,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	\$500,000	Federal USFWS Migratory Bird Con. Fund	\$500,000
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$120,000	\$30,000	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	\$150,000
Professional Services	\$140,000	-	-	\$140,000
Direct Support Services	\$120,000	-	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	\$120,000
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	\$60,000	\$10,000	DU Private	\$70,000
Other Equipment/Tools	\$90,000	-	DU private & federal NAWCA grants	\$90,000
Supplies/Materials	\$90,000	-	DU Private & federal NAWCA grants	\$90,000
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	\$13,700,000	\$1,190,000	-	\$14,890,000

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Professional Engineers, Surveyors, Construction Managers, and Biologists to Design and Implement Projects	2.0	3.0	\$990,000	\$250,000	DU Private & federal NAWCA, MBCF, and Circle of Flight	\$1,240,000
Manager - Grant Administration & Program Coordination	0.2	3.0	\$90,000	-	-	\$90,000

Capital Equipment

Item	Funding Request	Antic. Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Tracked UTV with Trailer for land survey and construction management	\$40,000	\$10,000	DU Private	\$50,000

GPS Survey Data Collector Equipment	\$20,000	-	-	\$20,000
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Amount of Request: \$13,700,000

Amount of Leverage: \$1,190,000

Leverage as a percent of the Request: 8.69%

DSS + Personnel: \$1,200,000

As a % of the total request: 8.76%

Easement Stewardship: -

As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Describe and explain leverage source and confirmation of funds:

DU will leverage OHF grant funds with additional private support from individuals, foundations, and corporations and from federal NAWCA grants. Federal leverage will also come from USFWS (\$510,000 MBCF easement acquisition funds and in-kind staff support) and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (\$50,000 Circle of Flight).

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?

Yes

If the project received 70% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

If reduced to 70% of the request, most of our acres/activities and budget would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Because our work involves a team of DU biologists/engineers, including programmatic engineering feasibility work that often spans several years and multiple appropriations, budgets for personnel may not be reduced exactly proportionately but will be reduced as much as possible without jeopardizing staffing and progress to keep future projects viable.

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?

If reduced to 50% of the request, most of our acres/activities and budget would be scaled proportionately.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?

Because our work involves a team of DU biologists/engineers, including programmatic engineering feasibility work that often spans several years and multiple appropriations, budgets for personnel may not be reduced exactly proportionately but will be reduced as much as possible without jeopardizing staffing and progress to keep future projects viable.

Personnel

Has funding for these positions been requested in the past?

Yes

Please explain the overlap of past and future staffing and position levels previously received and how that is coordinated over multiple years?

DU strives to complete one phase of this program before starting the next, to minimize overlap. Currently,

we anticipate completing Phase 6 by the end of 2022. We also anticipate a majority of Phase 7 being spent by the end of 2022. Furthermore, DU assigns a unique project number code to each project, and staff charge time to these site-specific project codes as they work on multiple projects throughout the year. Despite DU staff working on multiple projects and grants throughout the year, charges are only billed to one OHF grant or another, and therefore staff charges throughout the year are incurred on multiple projects funded by multiple grants, and DU staff cost invoicing is both sites-specific and OHF grant-specific.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?

Yes, all of the budget request for Contracts is for shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration work contracted to private sector construction firms specializing in earth moving and water control structure installation involving steel weirs, concrete culverts, etc.

Travel

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

None - DU travel costs consist of in-state mileage, food, and lodging only. Travel is primarily mileage and lodging for engineering field staff and biologists during project survey and construction management. DU has not typically invoiced for food or meals in the past, and likely won't do so in the future.

I understand and agree that lodging, meals, and mileage must comply with the current MMB Commissioner Plan:

Yes

Direct Support Services

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

Minnesota DNR grants staff previously reviewed and approved DU accounting methodology for Direct Support Services, which are calculated and included in DU staff costs. DU Direct Support Services constitute approximately 10% of DU overall staff costs on average among all billable DU conservation staff categories. DU breaks out and invoices for Direct Support Service expenses approved by DNR for reimbursement separately from Personnel expenses.

Other Equipment/Tools

Give examples of the types of Equipment and Tools that will be purchased?

GPS survey equipment for performing engineering wetland restoration survey work and engineering surveys of shallow lake and large wetland enhancement projects, including survey equipment lease charges instead of actual outright equipment purchases to avoid buying equipment that becomes obsolete due to upgrades and advancements. Other equipment may include laptop and/or tablet computers, printers and other office equipment for biologists or engineers may be needed, along with hand tools and other field equipment as needs arise.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?

Yes

Are the funds confirmed?

Yes

- Cash : \$550,000
- In Kind : \$10,000

Is Confirmation Document attached?

[Yes](#)

Output Tables**Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)**

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	300	100	0	0	400
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	2,200	400	0	0	2,600
Total	2,500	500	0	0	3,000

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	\$2,200,000	\$200,000	-	-	\$2,400,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$11,000,000	\$300,000	-	-	\$11,300,000
Total	\$13,200,000	\$500,000	-	-	\$13,700,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	200	0	200	0	400
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	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	100	300	0	2,100	100	2,600
Total	100	500	0	2,300	100	3,000

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	\$1,200,000	-	\$1,200,000	-	\$2,400,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	-	\$8,800,000	\$500,000	\$11,300,000
Total	\$500,000	\$2,700,000	-	\$10,000,000	\$500,000	\$13,700,000

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	\$7,333	\$2,000	-	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$5,000	\$750	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	\$6,000	-	\$6,000	-
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-

Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	\$5,000	\$5,000	-	\$4,190	\$5,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

Outcomes

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- Wetland and upland complexes will consist of native prairies, restored prairies, quality grasslands, and restored shallow lakes and wetlands ~ *This program will restore and enhance wetlands and grasslands on federal Waterfowl Production Areas and USFWS Habitat easements, and similar wetlands for MNDNR, each of which will be selected strategically by USFWS and MNDNR to benefit existing wetland complexes and migratory birds for both breeding and migration habitat, and which will be monitored by USFWS and MNDNR.*

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- Game lakes are significant contributors of waterfowl, due to efforts to protect uplands adjacent to game lakes ~ *DU will enhance and restore shallow lakes and wetlands on the Minnesota Valley NWR and federal Waterfowl Production Areas perpetually protected, managed, monitored, and evaluated annually by highly-trained U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologists. Service staff will guide the enhancement and restoration work by DU, and will evaluate wetland habitat outcomes annually to guide future management actions.*

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Other ~ *DU will enhance shallow lakes and wetlands to make them more productive for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife, which is a statewide concern due to statewide wetland loss and degradation. Wildlife response to wetland project improvements will be monitored, measured, and evaluated by conservation agency partner biologists including Minnesota DNR, USFWS, and Tribal Department of Natural Resource staff biologists.*

Programs in prairie region:

- Enhanced shallow lake productivity ~ *Wetland and shallow lakes restored or enhanced via temporary water level draw-downs by DU-engineered and installed water control structures will be assessed by Minnesota DNR shallow lakes program surveys both before and after draw-downs to document improvements in water clarity, abundance of aquatic plants, and overall improvements in the aquatic ecology of each basin. Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service field staff also conduct periodic counts of waterfowl and other wildlife using these basins in both spring and fall, along with hunters, and thus wildlife and human use is also monitored on a more informative opportunistic basis.*

Parcels

Sign-up Criteria?

No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:

Ducks Unlimited prioritizes prairie shallow lake enhancement and wetland restoration and enhancement opportunities that are located in landscapes most heavily used by migrating and breeding waterfowl, and which our DNR and USFWS agency partners have identified and prioritize for optimal waterfowl habitat. Due to the overall shortage of prairie wetlands for breeding ducks, and relatively few shallow lakes in optimal condition for migrating ducks in Minnesota, DU relies on our DNR and USFWS agency partner biologists with land management responsibility to determine shallow lake and wetland project opportunities on public land or under easement. From there, DU prioritizes wetland restorations within landscapes of higher predicted breeding duck use, and prioritizes enhancement of shallow lakes where management success is most probable due to basin depth, landscape and hydrology conditions, and the likelihood that invasive fish can be minimized.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

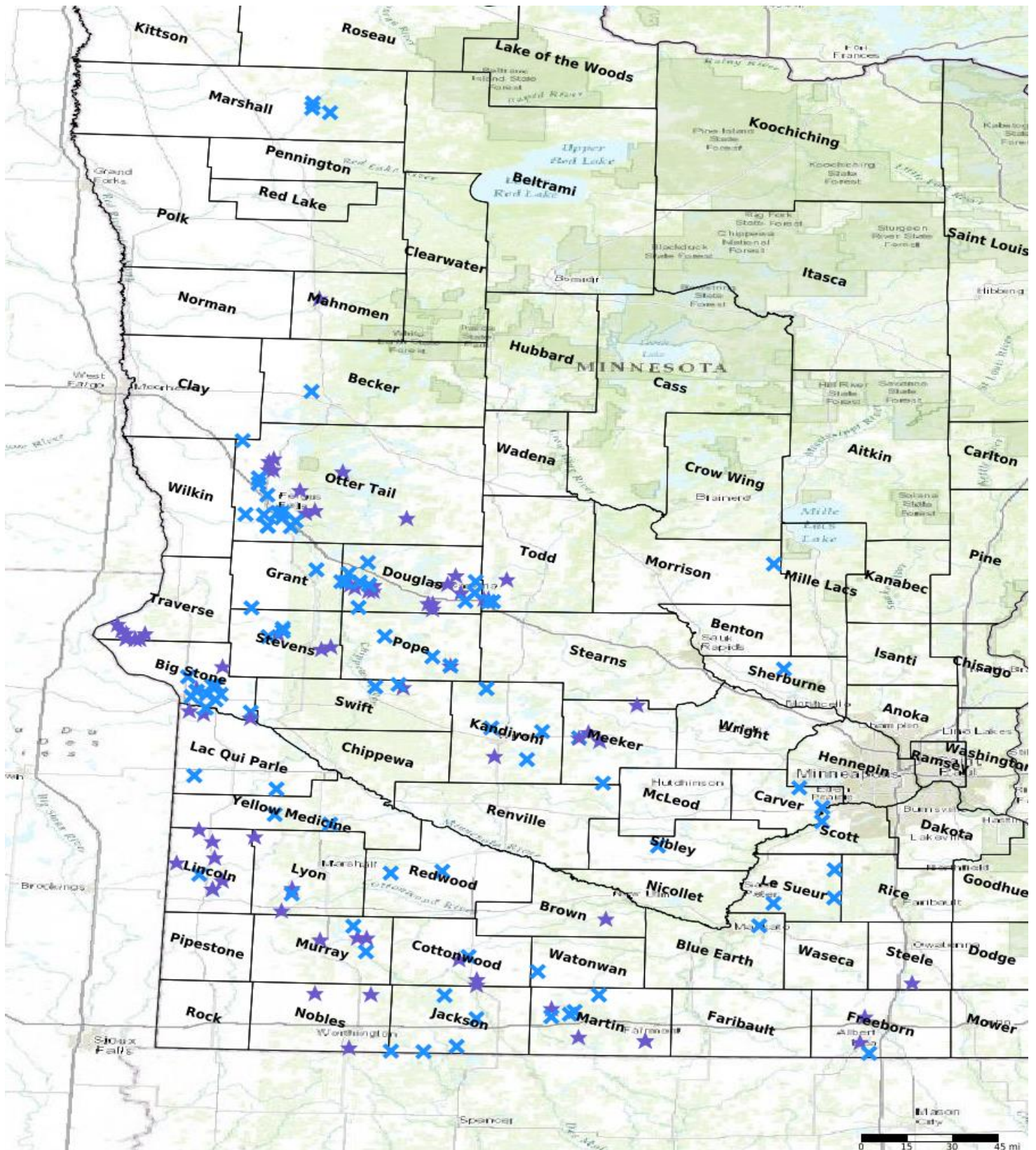
Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Hamden Slough NWR	Becker	13942202	3	\$25,000	Yes
Lac qui Parle WMA - Small wetland restorations	Big Stone	12044214	10	\$50,000	Yes
Dismal Swamp WPA - Small Wetlands	Big Stone	12345214	4	\$125,000	Yes
Twin Lakes WPA	Big Stone	12246225	1	\$10,000	Yes
Kufrin WPA	Big Stone	12245221	3	\$25,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - Rolfsmeier Upland Enhancement	Big Stone	12044202	40	\$25,000	Yes
Rothi WPA	Big Stone	12145202	3	\$25,000	Yes
Hillman WPA	Big Stone	12145215	1	\$10,000	Yes
Helgenson WPA	Big Stone	12145205	1	\$10,000	Yes
Redhead Marsh WPA	Big Stone	12146211	3	\$15,000	Yes
Prairie WPA	Big Stone	12246236	2	\$15,000	Yes
Otre Lake WMA	Big Stone	12245222	55	\$200,000	Yes
Swenson Lake	Big Stone	12246203	314	\$500,000	Yes
Eagle Lake	Blue Earth	10825207	617	\$1,000,000	Yes
Middle MN River WPA - Wetland Restoration	Brown	10931234	20	\$150,000	Yes
Three Rivers Park District - Lake 2 Enhancement	Carver	11624204	35	\$200,000	Yes
MN Valley NWR - Chaska Lake Enhancement	Carver	11523208	80	\$500,000	Yes
Harder Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10636216	1	\$5,000	Yes
Watonswan River WPA	Cottonwood	10636211	85	\$150,000	Yes
Wolf Lake WPA - Small wetland restorations	Cottonwood	10535231	5	\$20,000	Yes
Cottonwood Lake WPA	Cottonwood	10535219	2	\$20,000	Yes
Urness WMA	Douglas	12840210	37	\$200,000	Yes
Benson WPA	Douglas	12840207	1	\$15,000	Yes
Banke Slough WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12839218	1	\$50,000	Yes
Klug WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12840221	1	\$25,000	Yes
Sellevoid WPA - Small Wetland Restoration	Douglas	12840217	3	\$100,000	Yes
Tower Hill WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12839230	1	\$25,000	Yes
J.I. case WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12840225	2	\$75,000	Yes
Ash WPA	Douglas	12736209	1	\$15,000	Yes
Rachel WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12837211	2	\$75,000	Yes
Yanda-Paulzine WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12737217	1	\$25,000	Yes
Forada WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12737218	1	\$40,000	Yes

Hudson WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12737229	3	\$90,000	Yes
Petersen WPA - Small Wetlands	Douglas	12836229	1	\$40,000	Yes
Fedje WPA	Douglas	12940229	2	\$15,000	Yes
Tenhoff WPA	Douglas	12836202	2	\$22,000	Yes
Sellevoid WPA	Douglas	12840213	1	\$15,000	Yes
Schultz Lake WPA	Douglas	12836226	3	\$20,000	Yes
USFWS Habitat Easement - Groth Restoration	Douglas	12936230	66	\$150,000	Yes
Hegg Lake WMA	Douglas	12740227	73	\$300,000	Yes
Two Island WPA	Freeborn	10322224	4	\$20,000	Yes
Bhagyam WPA	Freeborn	10121230	15	\$20,000	Yes
Twin Lakes WPA	Freeborn	10122202	5	\$50,000	Yes
Bah Lakes WPA	Grant	12940201	4	\$40,000	Yes
Cheney Trust WPA	Grant	12744235	94	\$200,000	Yes
Blakesley WPA	Grant	12941219	1	\$10,000	Yes
Historical Society WPA	Grant	12841212	1	\$15,000	Yes
Boot Lake	Jackson	10335231	155	\$500,000	Yes
Sangl WMA	Jackson	10136221	25	\$150,000	Yes
Timber Lake WPA	Jackson	10437224	21	\$40,000	Yes
Iowa Lake Enhancement	Jackson	10138231	242	\$400,000	Yes
Minnesota WPA	Jackson	10137232	30	\$300,000	Yes
Whitefield WMA - Wetland Restorations	Kandiyohi	11835215	13	\$50,000	Yes
Weber WPA	Kandiyohi	12035228	79	\$300,000	Yes
Yarmon WPA	Kandiyohi	11834223	263	\$400,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - Hammerbeck Upland Enhancement	Kandiyohi	12235217	30	\$15,000	Yes
Uncle Matt's WPA	Kandiyohi	12033232	10	\$100,000	Yes
Wild Wings WMA	Lac qui Parle	11643223	73	\$250,000	Yes
Big Stone NWR - South Prairie 1 Wetland Restoration	Lac qui Parle	12046203	35	\$100,000	Yes
Big Stone NWR - Southeast Prairie and Yellow Bank South Wetland Restoration	Lac qui Parle	12045207	20	\$75,000	Yes
Big Stone NWR Pool 4/4A	Lac qui Parle	12145232	275	\$1,500,000	Yes
Sweetwater WMA	Lac qui Parle	11746236	69	\$200,000	Yes
Sanborn Lake WMA - Dietz Lake Enhancement	Le Sueur	11223235	73	\$300,000	Yes
Diamond Lake	Le Sueur	11023223	120	\$250,000	Yes
Lake Henry Enhancement	Le Sueur	11025234	396	\$100,000	Yes
Weber WPA	Lincoln	11045222	11	\$50,000	Yes
Herschberger WMA - Curtis Lake Enhancement	Lincoln	11145230	176	\$500,000	Yes
Knofczynski WPA	Lincoln	11245227	10	\$50,000	Yes
Rochel WPA	Lincoln	11045201	15	\$50,000	Yes
Fox WPA	Lincoln	11045222	20	\$100,000	Yes
Kontz WPA	Lincoln	11345206	20	\$100,000	Yes
Rook WPA	Lincoln	11345227	17	\$75,000	Yes
Agribank WPA	Lincoln	11146205	25	\$150,000	Yes
Lyons WMA - Brown Marsh Enhancement	Lyon	11042228	70	\$300,000	Yes
Black Rush Lake WPA	Lyon	11042216	30	\$125,000	Yes
Arends WPA	Lyon	11343218	5	\$20,000	Yes
Peterson WPA	Lyon	10942230	5	\$20,000	Yes
Jason Barker WPA East	Mahnomen	14542224	3	\$20,000	Yes
Agassiz NWR - Madsen Pool	Marshall	15642215	100	\$50,000	Yes
Agassiz NWR - Mud Lake Main Agassiz Pool	Marshall	15641220	5,000	\$1,000,000	Yes
Agassiz NWR - Pool 8	Marshall	15642203	100	\$50,000	Yes
East Chain WMA Wetland Restoration	Martin	10129206	10	\$75,000	Yes
Clam Lake	Martin	10332215	72	\$200,000	Yes
Caron WMA	Martin	10333226	37	\$550,000	Yes
Holmes Lake Restoration	Martin	10232235	100	\$750,000	Yes

East Chain WMA	Martin	10129206	5	\$50,000	Yes
Duck Lake Restoration	Martin	10333211	100	\$300,000	Yes
Rooney Run WMA - Round Lake Enhancement	Martin	10332221	45	\$200,000	Yes
Gleam WMA	Martin	10431216	15	\$150,000	Yes
Clear Lake WPA	Meeker	12130210	10	\$75,000	Yes
Butler Lake FWS PL Easement	Meeker	11932210	65	\$400,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - Butler Lake Restoration	Meeker	11932210	65	\$400,000	Yes
East Hanson Lake Restoration	Meeker	11931217	100	\$500,000	No
USFWS Easement - Trebil Wetland Restoration	Meeker	12032236	40	\$200,000	Yes
Two Island Wetland Project - Mille Lacs Band Ojibwe	Morrison	04128214	100	\$230,000	Yes
Devils Run WPA	Murray	10639206	28	\$200,000	Yes
Mason WPA - Wetland Restoration	Murray	10741216	15	\$150,000	Yes
Slaughter Slough WPA	Murray	10740211	20	\$125,000	Yes
Buffalo Lake WMA Wetland Restoration	Murray	10739207	10	\$50,000	Yes
Shetek WMA - Robbins Slough Enhancement	Murray	10840222	245	\$350,000	Yes
Lake Bella WPA	Nobles	10140227	1	\$5,000	Yes
Bloom WPA	Nobles	10441220	4	\$20,000	Yes
Graham Lake WPA	Nobles	10439220	14	\$70,000	Yes
Aaberg WPA	Otter Tail	13444212	1	\$15,000	Yes
Backstrom WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13543208	3	\$100,000	Yes
Pelican Valley WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13543204	1	\$40,000	Yes
Headquarters WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13242201	1	\$25,000	Yes
Erhard's Grove WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13543228	2	\$75,000	Yes
Knobel Lake WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13543229	1	\$40,000	Yes
Stange Lake WPA - Small Wetlands	Otter Tail	13242210	2	\$75,000	Yes
Duenow WPA	Otter Tail	13442233	3	\$20,000	Yes
Wieggers WPA	Otter Tail	13343208	20	\$55,000	Yes
USFWS Habitat Easement - Stoering Restoration	Otter Tail	13541225	50	\$100,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - Misegades Restoration	Otter Tail	13238217	27	\$200,000	Yes
Townsend WPA	Otter Tail	13243210	2	\$20,000	Yes
Scribner WPA	Otter Tail	13444224	2	\$25,000	Yes
Ridgeway WPA	Otter Tail	13244216	15	\$50,000	Yes
Nicolson WPA - Shallow Lake Enhancement	Otter Tail	13142206	100	\$250,000	Yes
Nicholson/Tenmile WPA	Otter Tail	13143205	3	\$35,000	Yes
Mavis WPA	Otter Tail	13243211	1	\$10,000	Yes
Knollwood WPA	Otter Tail	13243223	3	\$15,000	Yes
Julsrud WPA	Otter Tail	13644205	2	\$20,000	Yes
Hintermeister WPA	Otter Tail	13242229	2	\$15,000	Yes
Haugen WPA	Otter Tail	13243218	1	\$15,000	Yes
Busko WPA	Otter Tail	13143205	221	\$250,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - Sievers Upland Enhancement	Pope	12337201	63	\$35,000	Yes
Nelson Lake WPA - Small Wetlands	Pope	12337201	3	\$100,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - BBB Farms Upland Enhancement	Pope	12437220	60	\$35,000	Yes
Stewart WPA	Pope	12539215	15	\$100,000	Yes
Westline WMA	Redwood	11139213	200	\$200,000	Yes
Daubs Lake Enhancement	Redwood	11137211	175	\$250,000	Yes
Boon Lake Enhancement	Renville	11731233	858	\$500,000	Yes
MN Valley NWR - Louisville Swamp Enhancement	Scott	11423205	75	\$500,000	Yes
Sherburne NWR - West Carpenter Pool Enhancement	Sherburne	03528226	70	\$300,000	Yes
Indian Lake	Sibley	11329221	377	\$600,000	Yes
Straight River Marsh WPA	Steele	10520222	50	\$500,000	Yes

Edwards WPA - Small Wetlands	Stevens	12441208	1	\$40,000	Yes
Bahr WPA	Stevens	12543212	1	\$10,000	Yes
Pepperton WPA	Stevens	12543214	1	\$10,000	Yes
Long Lake WPA - Small Wetlands	Stevens	12441203	1	\$40,000	Yes
Smith WPA	Stevens	12543201	1	\$15,000	Yes
Freeman WPA	Stevens	12543221	1	\$10,000	Yes
Loen WPA - Small Wetlands	Swift	12238207	3	\$15,000	Yes
Johnson Lake Enhancement	Swift	12239217	179	\$500,000	Yes
Svor WPA - Small Wetlands	Swift	12238217	2	\$75,000	Yes
Geroy WPA - Small Wetlands	Todd	12935236	1	\$40,000	Yes
Aurzada Prairie WMA	Todd	12735208	5	\$50,000	Yes
West Union WMA	Todd	12735209	30	\$250,000	Yes
Faber WPA - Small Wetlands	Todd	12735206	1	\$40,000	Yes
Sogge WPA - Small Wetlands	Todd	12735205	2	\$75,000	Yes
Terfehr WPA - Small Wetland Restoration	Todd	12735208	1	\$40,000	Yes
Mosquito Ranch WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548221	8	\$175,000	Yes
Robinhood WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548217	6	\$175,000	Yes
Diekmann WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548235	2	\$75,000	Yes
Jenk WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548235	1	\$20,000	Yes
Lawrence WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12547219	3	\$100,000	Yes
Murphy WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548236	1	\$15,000	Yes
Pederson WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548206	1	\$40,000	Yes
Gibson WPA - Small Wetlands	Traverse	12548233	1	\$15,000	Yes
Sulem WMA	Watonswan	10533205	226	\$500,000	Yes
Spellman WMA - Miedd Lake	Yellow Medicine	11441223	50	\$100,000	Yes
USFWS Easement - Coover Wetland Enhancement	Yellow Medicine	11443202	10	\$15,000	Yes

Parcel Map



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

DU MN OHF Grant History - direct appropriations

\$ in Millions



Appropriation for DU Conservation Program Element

<u>Year</u>	<u>Living Shallow Lake Enhancement & Wetland Restoration</u>	<u>SL Protection Restoration</u>	<u>DNR Land Acq & Restoration</u>	<u>USFWS Easement Acquisition & Restoration (WPAs in 2009)</u>	<u>Wild Rice Lake Protection (DU Land & BWSR RIM Easements)</u>	<u>Martin County WMA's Acq & Restore Partnership with FLCL</u>	<u>Heron Lake Area Conservation Partnership w/ PF, MLT, & HLWD</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Notes</u>
2009	\$2.53		\$0.45		\$1.75			\$4.72	\$ for USFWS WPA acq/restoration via PF OHF grant
2010	\$5.04							\$5.04	
2011					\$0.29			\$0.29	Created BWSR RIM Wild Rice Lake Easement Program
2012	\$4.49							\$4.49	
2013		\$3.53						\$3.53	
2014	\$4.91							\$4.91	
2015		\$9.00						\$9.00	
2016		\$5.80						\$5.80	
2017	\$4.72	\$5.75						\$10.47	
2018	\$3.74	\$4.77		\$2.00		\$0.40		\$10.91	\$ for USFWS Habitat Easements & Restoration via DU
2019		\$6.15				\$0.55		\$6.70	
2020		\$5.38		\$2.25		\$0.62	\$1.18	\$9.42	\$ for USFWS Habitat Easements & Restoration via DU
2021	\$3.96	\$4.58		\$3.15		\$0.59		\$12.29	
2022	\$5.03	\$4.66				\$0.41		\$10.09	
Totals:	\$34.42	\$50.07		\$9.15	\$0.29	\$2.57	\$1.18	\$97.67	Through first 14 years of the CWL&LA (expires 2034)

RESPONSE 2

From: Jon Schneider <jschneider@ducks.org>

Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 2:33 PM

To: david@dbhartwell.com

Cc: tom_kerr@fws.gov; Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.mn.gov>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.mn.gov>; Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: Comments on ML2023 OHF Proposal PRE01 "Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program - Phase 4"

Dear LSOHC Chairman Hartwell,

On behalf of Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, I'm writing to respond to your thoughtful comments regarding ML2023 OHF Proposal PRE01 "Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program - Phase 4" prior to the LSOHC meeting tomorrow. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns, or require any additional information:

"What will happen in in the event of drought. Will the easement allow emergency grazing that is not what is envisioned in the proposal?"

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Easement provisions remain in effect and do not change due to emergency haying or grazing declarations in Minnesota.

"How does the value of these easements that allow grazing and haying differ in value than those that do not?"

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service only offer easements that allow haying, grazing or haying and grazing, and in 2022 the percentage paid ranged from 60-75% based on uses. We do not acquire fully protective "no-use" easements in Minnesota.

"PF staff costs - .33 FTE over 3 years = \$300,000? As I calculate this, it would mean paying someone \$300,000 per year which cannot be correct." and "DU's staff cost works out to just under \$200,000 for a FTE which also seems high."

It looks like I messed up the FTE calculations for both PF and DU, and I fully apologize for that typo. It's always a bit confusing to me to figure out how to calculate these over multiple years, but I recall meaning to estimate \$100k/FTE/year, so should have listed 1 FTE for PF's \$300,000 over 3 years and 2 FTE for DU's \$600,000 over 3 years. Of course, this is just an estimate of the full organizational cost to employ one person for a year, and may include time from several employees working on multiple

projects and OHF grant programs. For DU, we code our work hours to specific projects on which we work down the 15-minute period, and only invoice those hours to one public or private funding source, but we have multiple staff working on multiple projects and multiple grants ongoing throughout the year.

By way of this email, I will ask Sandy how best to fix this typo in our proposal or communicate this typo to other Council members. Thanks again for your diligent review leadership, and I hope this response provides clarity to your thoughtful comments. Sincerely, Jon

Jon Schneider, Manager of Conservation Programs - Minnesota

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

311 East Lake Geneva Road NE, Alexandria, MN 56308

Office: 320-762-9916 / Cell: 320-815-0327

jschneider@ducks.org / www.ducks.org

RESPONSE 3

From: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>

Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 8:06 AM

To: David Hartwell <david@dbhartwell.com>

Cc: Sandy Smith <sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.mn.gov>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.mn.gov>; Sabin Adams <sadams@pheasantsforever.org>; Alexander Nelson <anelson@pheasantsforever.org>

Subject: RE: LSOHC July 28 Meeting Info/Link

Yes, you are correct that the \$125k is per parcel. PF has an organizational calculator that spits out a required stewardship deposit for any parcel that is to become an HMA. The calculation is parcel specific and based on anticipated annual costs that we would input (i.e., taxes, land insurance, personnel, maintenance, etc.) along with assumed inflation and interest rates. In this case the \$125k represents the average required deposit when running this calculator on all our FY20 fee-title acquisitions in Minnesota.

Thanks

Eran Sandquist | State Coordinator - Minnesota

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | P.O. Box 613 | Delano, MN 55328

c. (763) 242 1273

esandquist@pheasantsforever.org



From: David Hartwell <david@dbhartwell.com>

Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 7:24 AM

To: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>

Cc: Sandy Smith (<sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov> <sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.mn.gov>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.mn.gov>; Sabin Adams <sadams@pheasantsforever.org>; Alexander Nelson <anelson@pheasantsforever.org>

Subject: Re: LSOHC July 28 Meeting Info/Link

Thanks for the clarifications.

I do have one follow-up question. Am I correct the stewardship per parcel is calculated at \$125k? If so, I am curious as to how that amount is calculated.

Thanks.

David Hartwell
1767 Fremont Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403
763-201-6556

From: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:05:10 AM

To: David Hartwell <david@dbhartwell.com>

Cc: Sandy Smith (sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov) <sandy.smith@lsohc.mn.gov>; Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@lsohc.mn.gov>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@lsohc.mn.gov>; Sabin Adams <sadams@pheasantsforever.org>; Alexander Nelson <anelson@pheasantsforever.org>

Subject: FW: LSOHC July 28 Meeting Info/Link

Dear LSOHC Chairman Hartwell,

I wanted to take this opportunity to respond to your comments regarding the following proposals. After your review of our responses, please advise if you have follow-up questions or thoughts.

PA06 - ML2023 Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program

Comment - \$125K in easement stewardship as a match but no easement activity is anticipated in the program. Does not make sense.

- The \$125,000 in match would be dedicated to a parcel protected in fee-title and held by PF as a Habitat Management Area (HMA). PF would make the donation to our PF Forever Stewardship Fund for long-term holding and maintenance costs for that fee acquired parcel. We were advised by LSOHC staff to put the match in the "easement stewardship" category as there is currently no budget category that fits better in this situation.

Comment - Explain the PF Forever HMA fund that will apparently receive some of the funds from this request? Not sure how it would work for PF to hold funds for "holding costs" on this project.

- HMA is a Habitat Management Area not a fund. PF has retained long-term ownership of strategically acquired or donated land tracts for over 30 years now. However, it was only recently that we have given them the official "HMA" name. As it relates to this proposal, we are proposing to have the flexibility to acquire a parcel in fee-title as a WMA or a HMA. As you can see by the budget lines, our priority is still to protect parcels as WMA's but there are situations where it might be advantageous to protect a parcel as an HMA and have PF hold the parcel in perpetuity, pay annual taxes, etc. As described above for a parcel that would go the HMA route, PF would make a \$125k donation to the PF Forever Stewardship Fund to cover the parcels long-term holding costs, not OHF.

Comment - Cost per acre is the same for all Ecological Sections. This does not make any sense.

- Given the high variability of individual parcel valuations regardless of where it is in the state coupled with the uncertainty to what level or if we may be funded, we have been averaging the overall cost per acre of fee-title within the proposal versus trying to predict costs by Ecological Section since at the time of the proposal, we can't, with certainty, predict which projects will still be available or prioritized relative to any level of funding we may receive.

PRE03- ML2023 Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands

Comment - Salary for State coordinator - .03 x 3 years + .09 FTE for the 3 years - \$50,000 cost total for the proposal - Annual salary calculation is therefore \$556K. This cannot be correct.

- You are correct that the FTE calculations are not correct in the proposal. In fact, it appears that all three personnel breakdown FTEs are incorrect. I apologize for our oversight. Accurate FTE calculations for the ML2023 proposal are as follows: State Coordinator - .15, Field Staff - .55, and Grant Staff - .37. It's important to note that these proposed budgets are just estimates and staff

hours would be coded to specific projects down to the quarter hour. We would only invoice those hours that are directly spent on approved projects within this appropriation.

- I have copied Sandy, Joe, and Mark on this email. If there is a way to fix the FTE typos in the proposal, we would be happy to do so.

Lastly, thank you for the thoughtful comments and your leadership of habitat delivery in Minnesota!

Eran Sandquist | State Coordinator - Minnesota

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | P.O. Box 613 | Delano, MN 55328

c. (763) 242 1273

esandquist@pheasantsforever.org



RESPONSE 4

From: Eran Sandquist <esandquist@pheasantsforever.org>

Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:17 AM

To: Isohc mailbox <Isohc@Isohc.leg.mn>

Cc: Sabin Adams <sadams@pheasantsforever.org>; Alexander Nelson <anelson@pheasantsforever.org>

Subject: FW: LSOHC July 28 Meeting Info/Link

LSOHC Staff, please forward to Mr. Edmondson on our behalf.

Dear LSOHC Member Edmondson,

I wanted to take this opportunity to respond to your comment regarding the following proposal. After your review of our responses, please advise if you have follow-up questions or thoughts.

PA04 – ML2023 Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley

Comment - These areas are open to public hunting. Does this include hunting of the “flagship species” Greater Prairie Chicken. Line 2 and 3 of your budgets have the exact same description and numbers. could you please explain the difference?

- Yes, all our fee-title acquired parcels are open to public hunting during open seasons including the very limited lottery season for Greater Prairie Chickens.
- The fee-title with PILT budget category is to acquire Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) that will be owned and managed long-term by the state and the fee-title **without** PILT budget category is to acquire Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) that will be owned and managed long-term by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We propose to acquire an equal amount of both, hence the same funding request in each of those budget categories.

Lastly, thank you for the thoughtful comments and your contributions to habitat delivery in Minnesota!

Eran Sandquist | State Coordinator - Minnesota

Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever | P.O. Box 613 | Delano, MN 55328

c. (763) 242 1273

esandquist@pheasantsforever.org



RESPONSE 5

From: Craig Hensel <craighensel77@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:53 PM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Cc: aaron weinandt <aaron_weinandt@yahoo.com>
Subject: Addressing specific question that the Council had about WRE01

Dear LSOHC Council Members,

Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers (SLW) submitted a grant request for the FY2024/ML2023 round of LSOHC funding. As you are aware this was our first request from the LSOHC, we are in the process of completing a CPL grant to assist the USFWS and MNDNR to complete approximately 25 acres of wetland restorations on a previously acquired WMA in Le Sueur County. Our group started in 2019 after the Minnesota Waterfowl Association disbanded and our members wanted to continue to raise funds for local projects and youth outdoor events.

For this proposal we partnered with a company named Field to Flyway Engineering, LLC to identify projects and help draft the grant request. Their business profile is attached if you feel inclined to investigate the company.

SLW has continued to work with additional conservation groups in our area and has added partners that increased our leveraged dollars by \$40,000. Letters of support are also attached.

Our grant request generated some questions from the council that we would like to address. This email is a summary but the attached letter has more detail, as recommended by LSOHC staff.

Kristin Eggerling-**CPL?**

Wetland restoration projects like these require substantial engineering and permitting work to get them to construction. CPL grants do not cover engineering costs associated with the projects but those costs can be used as a match. We would also like to do multiple projects at the same time to make a bigger impact on the landscape.

David Hartwell-Curious how the language "water control structure would be designed by an engineering consultant with vast experience in natural resource bioengineering and installed by a qualified contractor who specialize in heavy civil and infrastructure construction" is exactly the same as appears in WRE04. Will the project be put out widely for complete bidding or has the contracting team already been selected?

Field to Flyway Engineering worked with both Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers and Grant County which submitted WRE04 so some of the responses to the application questions are similar.

Project contracts and professional services will be awarded according to MNDNR procurement requirements.

Mark Holsten- **1st time proposer at request of DNR, review timeline**

We worked with DNR area wildlife staff to identify projects that needed financial and project management assistance.

Wetland projects require extensive engineering and permitting requirements that take time. The extended time will also allow us to manage the payments and reimbursements of the grant.

Mark Holsten- from HA15 **how does this overlap with WRE01, administration overlap?**

There is no overlap, but since this comment came up we have had discussions with the partnership and have discussed how to work together and partner on current and future projects.

Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers looks forward to working with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, MN DNR, and other partners to complete these projects.

Best Regards,
Craig Hensel
Volunteer Grant Manager
Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers
612.803.1865



TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

4175 CIRCLE LAKE TRAIL

FARIBAULT, MN. 55021

info@trilakessportsmen.com

TO: LESSARD-SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL

FROM: TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

SUBJECT: WETLAND ENHANCEMENT IN THE BIG WOODS

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, I AM WRITING YOU IN SUPPORT OF THE WETLAND ENHANCEMENT IN THE BIG WOODS IN RICE AND SCOTT COUNTY.

AT OUR JULY 26, 2022 CLUB MEETING OUR MEMBERSHIP PASSED A MOTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECT AND APPROVED \$30,000 IN MATCHING FUNDS.

THE TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1960 BY A GROUP OF LOCAL INDIVIDUALS WHOSE FOCUS WAS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE AREA'S NATURAL RESOURCES. WE ALSO STRIVE TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT OUR OUTDOOR HERITAGE AND RIGHTS BY INTRODUCING OUR YOUTH AND THE GENERAL COMMUNITY TO VARIOUS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. THE MEMBERSHIP AND PROJECT BASE AREA IS PRIMARILY RICE COUNTY AND ADJACENT AREAS. CURRENTLY WE HAVE ABOUT 105 MEMBERS.

THE MISSION OF THE TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB IS TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE RICE COUNTY AREA AND BE STEWARDS OF THE OUTDOORS IN ALL THE COMMUNITIES THAT ITS MEMBERS RESIDE IN.

WE ARE A PROJECT BASED ORGANIZATION THAT DOES MANY THINGS EVERY YEAR:

- AERATORS IN CIRCLE LAKE
- LAKE ACCESS MAINTENANCE AND LAKESHORE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS
- CIRCLE LAKE AND FOX LAKE FISHING PIERS: WE PARTNERED WITH THE DNR AND RICE COUNTY IN BUILDING THESE.
- WEED REMOVAL PROGRAM ON CIRCLE, ROBERTS, AND HUNT LAKE

-WOOD DUCK HOUSES: MEMBERS BUILD ABOUT 100 EACH YEAR

-BLUE BIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM: WE SUPPORT THE BBRP'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PROVIDE NEST BOXES.

-WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS: EVERY YEAR WE SUBSIDIZE UP TO 50 ACRES OF CORN OR SOYBEANS TO BE SET ASIDE AS WILDLIFE FEEDING SITES.

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

-SIX \$500.00 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED TO STUDENTS WHO SHOW AN INTEREST IN NATURE OR SCIENCE.

-ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS: FARIBAULT MIDDLE SCHOOL

-LONSDALE ARCHERY RANGE

-FIREARM SAFETY PROGRAM THROUGH AFFILIATION WITH THE CANNON RIVER SPORTSMENS CLUB

-YOUTH FISHING CONTESTS: INTRODUCING KIDS TO ICE FISHING

-TRAP SHOOTING TEAMS: WE SPONSOR THE FARIBAULT, NORTHFIELD, BETHLEHEM ACADEMY, TRI-CITY, AND THE NEW PRAUGE TRAP TEAMS

-LONSDALE SCHOOL NATURE TRAIL

SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WE PARTNER WITH INCLUDE:

PHEASANTS FOREVER, DUCKS UNLIMITED, THE TURKEY FEDERATION, BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS, FARIBAULT ARCHERY CLUB AND THE CANNON RIVER SPORTSMENS CLUB.

IN CONCLUSION, WE VERY MUCH SUPPORT THE WETLAND ENHANCEMENT IN THE BIG WOODS APPLICATION AND STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THE LESSARDS-SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE PROJECT FOR FUNDING.

THANK YOU,

GREG DUBAN, PRESIDENT

TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB IS A NONPROFIT CORPORATION, 501(C)3 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION.

New Prague Sportsmans Club, Inc.

PO Box 121

New Prague, MN 56069

Re: Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods

We are writing the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council in support of Scot – Le Sueur Waterfowlers grant proposal “Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods” for projects in Rice and Scott County.

At our meeting on August 25, 2022, the membership agreed to support the project and approved up to \$10,000 in matching funds.

Throughout the year, we do many things in support of the outdoors. A few of our projects are:

- Cedar Lake aeration

- Youth finishing clinic

- Crappie tournament

- Adopt a highway

- Mallard nests

- Wood duck house support

- Donate to many local youth organizations

- Donate to local trap shooting teams in surrounding communities

We strive to encourage youth to take part in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and trap shoot. We feel supporting the “Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods” grant proposal matches the mission of the New Prague Sportsmans Club.

The New Prague Sportsmans Club is a 501c4 charitable organization.

Sincerely,

Billy Bartusek

President

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
State Office Building, Room 55
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re:

WRE01 Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods by Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers
Field to Flyway Engineering, LLC

Council Members,

For the ML2023/FY2024 round of LSOHC Grants, Scott-Le Sueur Waterfowlers have decided to work with Field to Flyway Engineering to apply for funding to perform Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods. We would like to introduce the two organizations and answer the member comments.

Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers was started after Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA) disbanded in 2019. As one of the most successful chapters of MWA the volunteers decided they could not let the group fold and lose the local enthusiasm for conservation. More information can be found in the proposal illustration regarding what the club has done in the last 3 years.

Field to Flyway Engineering was started to deliver wetland restoration and other conservation projects by Aaron M. Weinandt, P.E. and Kelli A. Weinandt. Working on wetland restorations and shallow lake enhancements for 11 years, I have developed techniques to maximize quality wetland habitat. After leaving my previous job I wanted to use my engineering expertise & passion to design and restore habitat for all God's creatures, rather than be another engineer designing developments and curb and gutter. We are also looking to assist past OHF applicants to increase the capacity of past OHF recipients, as the council discussed at the July 28, 2022 meeting and briefly at the council project tour on August 18th. Attached is our business profile if you would like more information or feel free to contact us:



Aaron Weinandt P.E.
701-595-1224
Aaron_weinandt@yahoo.com

There were a few comments regarding WRE01 Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods.

Kristin Eggerling-CPL?

Wetland restoration projects like these require substantial engineering and permitting work to get them to construction. CPL grants do not cover engineering cost associated with the projects but those cost can be used as match. When discussing options and developing cost estimates the engineering fees would surpass the amount Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers could provide when added to the other cost not covered by CPL. That combined with the fact that CPL requires engineering and permitting to be completed prior to application. With the last CPL grant that is currently being completed Scott -Le Sueur Waterfowlers worked with MNDNR, Pheasants Forever and USFWS to help secure funding for wetland restorations on previously acquired lands. This time we would like to be more involved and get multiple projects done in one application time frame, the larger LSOHC Grants allow us to conserve more wetlands with the same amount of our investment. We believe that this grant also allowed us to bring in the additional partners to provide matching funds.

David Hartwell-**Curious how the language "water control structure would be designed by an engineering consultant with vast experience in natural resource bioengineering and installed by a qualified contractor who specialize in heavy civil and infrastructure construction" is exactly the same as appears in WRE04. Will the project be put out widely for complete bidding or has the contracting team already been selected?**

Field to Flyway Engineering worked with both Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers and Grant County which submitted WRE04 so some of the responses to the application questions are similar.

The project contracts will be awarded according to MNDNR Procurement requirements. While Field to Flyway Engineering has helped apply for the LSOHC grant, there is verbal agreement between SLW and Field to Flyway Engineering that if funded Field to Flyway Engineering is not guaranteed to be hired as the engineering consultant, this agreement was initiated by Field to Flyway Engineering during the initial discussion of these projects. They would be allowed to submit a proposal as they wish.

Mark Holsten- **1st time proposer at request of DNR, review time line**

Scott – Le Sueur Waterfowlers wanted to do additional habitat work in the area so we contacted MNDNR Area Wildlife staff to inquire about potential projects in addition to the Country Hallow Wetland. MNDNR identified the projects in Rice County as areas where they needed additional help and resources to get projects completed.

Since these projects require extensive engineering design and permitting it takes time to go through the process in order to get the project to construction. We also extended the timeline so we can manage the cash flow of the reimbursements from the grant.

Mark Holsten- from HA15 **how does this overlap with WRE01, administration overlap?**

The Partnership that submitted HA15 has been contacted to discuss potential project overlap and there is none. Boyd Sartell WMA is listed on both proposals, but we are working on different areas and habitat types. There is no administration overlap. We discussed how to utilize each organization's strengths to deliver conservation in tandem across the Big Woods on these and future projects.

We are also continuing to work with other area sportsman's club to bring in additional partners and matching funds. Since the grant proposal was submitted in May, an additional \$30,000 was secured from Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club and \$10,000 from New Prague Sportsman's Club.

Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers looks forward to working with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, MNDNR, and other partners to complete these projects.

Thank You,
Craig Hansel
Volunteer Grant Manager
Scott – Le Sueur Waterfowlers

Aaron M. Weinandt, P.E.
Owner/Engineer
Field to Flyway Engineering, LLC

Proverbs 21:5 NLT - Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.



Aaron M. Weinandt, P.E.

Phone: 701-595-1224 Email: aaron_weinandt@yahoo.com

Table of Contents

About.....	3-4
Personal Profile	5
Volunteering & Media	6
Projects	7-16
The Nature Conservancy-WRP.....	7-8
Swessinger WMA-Jones Tract.....	9-11
Rooney Run/Seymour Lake WMA-Complex.....	12-14
Swan Lake-Fish Barrier.....	15-16
References	17

About

Field to Flyway Engineering, LLC was founded on Christian principles, which focuses on passion, integrity, respect, and efficiency. We want to cultivate a collaborative partnership with you to accomplish mutual goals. Our objective is to minimize chargeable hours to each project as opposed to billing out an excessive amount of unnecessary time.

Our business model is setup for project engineers to have the capability to provide all the services listed below for your project. This business model allows us to provide premium service to our partners by allowing our project engineers to take ownership and pride in their projects while simultaneously increasing accountability and productivity, leading to an increase in overall partner satisfaction. By following this model it will decrease meetings within our company, eliminate information being lost because there is one person who does every aspect of the project, not just overseeing. It also helps you, our partner, save time, money, and headaches.

Services include:

Initial Consultation: Meeting with partner to establish the goal of their project. Discuss options, opportunities, and challenges. Explore grants and other potential funding avenues.

Topographic Surveys: GPS or total station based survey data to determine elevations that help shape design elements.

Design/Construction Plans & Specifications: Utilizing the information from the initial consultation and from surveys to develop a cost effective and constructible design that meets the partner's needs. Plans and specifications are developed in a manner making bidding easier and will reduce the amount of change orders.

Permitting: Working with all permitting agencies, from local to federal, to secure necessary permits for the project. Plans and permits are put together to help streamline the process to reduce reviewers concerns and costly delays.

Bidding/Contracting: Developing and sending out bid documents in coordination with partner and/or grant requirements. Assist partners to develop construction contracts with successful bidders.

Construction Management: Construction staking of design elements so the contractor can accurately build according to plan. Construction oversight to maintain extremely high construction standards according to developed plans and specifications. A project closeout meeting consists of evaluating constructed design elements, their operation and maintenance with the partner and contractor. Provide as-recorded drawings that make note of any changes from the original design.

Operation and Maintenance: While we strive to design and construct low maintenance and long service life projects, natural events may occur that require attention after construction is completed such as large rain events which cause erosion or rodent activity that interferes with the functionality of the system. Develop remediation efforts.

✈ About ✈

Project Management: Whether you partner with us for one or all of our services, we can provide management of all aspects of your project. If the project requires additional specialization we have a network of firms that we can partner with to fulfill those needs.

Types of Projects

- Wetland Restorations
 - Public or Private Lands
 - Mitigation
- Lake Outlet Modifications
 - Reduce high water impacts public infrastructure or adjacent lands
 - Lake habitat enhancements
 - Water quality improvements
 - Flood mitigation
- Stream Restorations
- Dam Removal
- Fish Passage Ways or Exclusions
- Rain Gardens
- Recreational Park Design
- Soil Conservation Designs
- Mine or Gravel Pit Reclamations
- Hydrology and Hydraulic Modeling and Analysis
- Roadway Culvert Analysis
- Site Plans for New Construction
- Public Ditch Systems
- Tile System Design and Optimization



Personal Profile

I have always had a passion for being in the outdoors, helping restore what God had originally created. This lifelong commitment to restoration and environment is evident in my volunteering, educational, career and family experiences.

I grew up on a small farm located in Le Sueur County, MN. When I was five, my parents started an erosion control business that I was employed with until college. Once I was old enough, I oversaw projects and a labor crew. This is where I developed a strong work ethic by completing projects correctly and in a timely manner, even if that meant working long hours.

In college, I knew I wanted to pursue a bachelor's degree that would help restore wetlands. While pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering I started to volunteer for the Ducks Unlimited College Chapter which was the 8th highest revenue generating college chapter in the nation.

After graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering, I accepted a field engineer position with a grading contractor based out of Casper, WY. My wife and I moved all over Wyoming and Montana doing road construction and a coal mine reclamation. Having the work ethic; I developed while working with my parents' company helped with the long hours and tight deadlines.

In 2010, I accepted a contract engineer position with Ducks Unlimited and the NRCS, working with wetland restorations on RIM/WRP easements in West Central Minnesota. For three years I worked on fifty easements totaling approximately 15,000 acres. In 2013, I joined the Ducks Unlimited engineering team as a full-time employee. I have found that executing each aspect of the project from surveying, designing, drafting, and finishing maximizes productivity, efficiency, and accuracy. I take pride in personally executing all aspects of each project from the initial meeting with a partner to the finished project.

Volunteering & Media

- Church
 - Call committee for new pastor
 - Chairman and other leadership roles on board
 - Facilitated Financial Peace
 - Facilitated Marriage Seminar
- Ducks Unlimited College Chapter
 - 8th Highest revenue college chapter in the nation
- Coordinator & Mentor for youth hunts
- Counselor, Instructor, and Mentor of Woodie Camp at Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls, MN since 2007
- Chairman and volunteer for Fergus Falls Green Wing Event
- Minnesota Bound Episode 832

The Nature Conservancy- WRP

Part of the Buffalo River State Park and TNC Bluestem Prairie Complex, 1.5 miles North of Downer in Clay County, MN

- 744 acre Wetland Reserve Program easement consisting of native wet prairie, dry prairie and old gravel pit
- 160 acre gravel pit from the 60's with rough terrain from over burden and spoil piles, high steep cut slope on the Lake Agassiz beach ridge
- Pit area was filled with large trees and thick under brush
- Easement area was used for rotational grazing

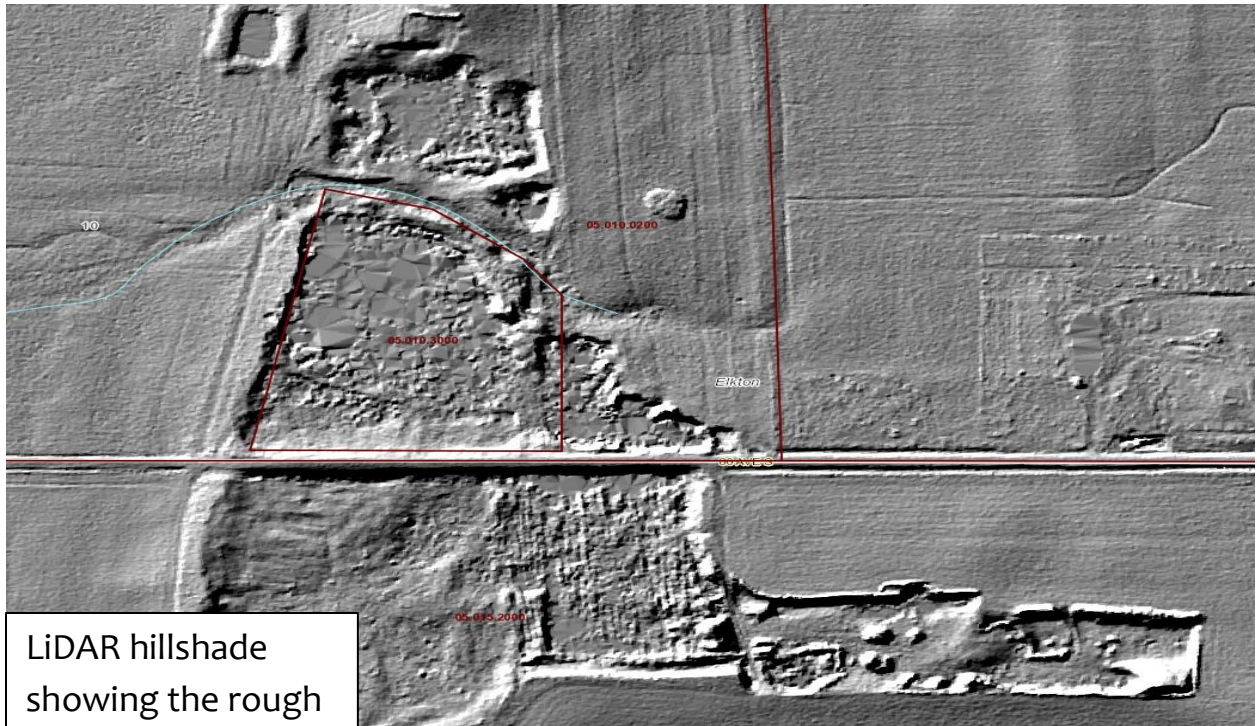
Partner Driven Outcome

- Remove trees for Prairie Chicken habitat enhancement and increase forage production
- Level spoil areas and flatten cut slopes to allow vehicle traffic, maintenance and reduce erosion

Design Challenges and Solutions

- Heavy tree cover and rough terrain made surveying with typical GPS equipment nearly impossible and very time consuming. LiDAR was used in Auto CADD to calculate a balanced cut and fill quantity of 20,000 cubic yards of material moved
- Maintain drainage from adjacent tillable land without impacting ag crop production, and erosion in sandy soils with an 8' vertical drop. Designed two grassed waterways with grade stabilization rock checks.

🦅The Nature Conservancy- WRP 🦅



LiDAR hillshade
showing the rough
topography of the
existing gravel pit



Swessinger WMA-Jones Tract

Part of the Bloom WPA and Swessinger WMA, 970 acre Prairie/Wetland Complex, 3 miles North and 2 miles East of Wilmont in Nobels County, MN

- 640 acre Ducks Unlimited acquisition

Pre-restoration conditions

- 22 Acres of Wetland
- 63 Acres of CRP
- 6 Acres of Road
- 7 Acres of ROW
- 6 Acres of Trees
- 536 Acres of Cultivated

Partner desires

- Maximize wetland areas with minimal future maintenance

Design Challenges and Solutions

- Township not pleased with public land purchase because of perceived; loss of property tax revenue, taking farmland out of private ownership, DNR lack of future maintenance, weed issues, and potential for State to limit pesticides on adjacent private land. Attend many meetings, educating about the design elements, raising a township road to allow wetland restoration adjacent to the road.

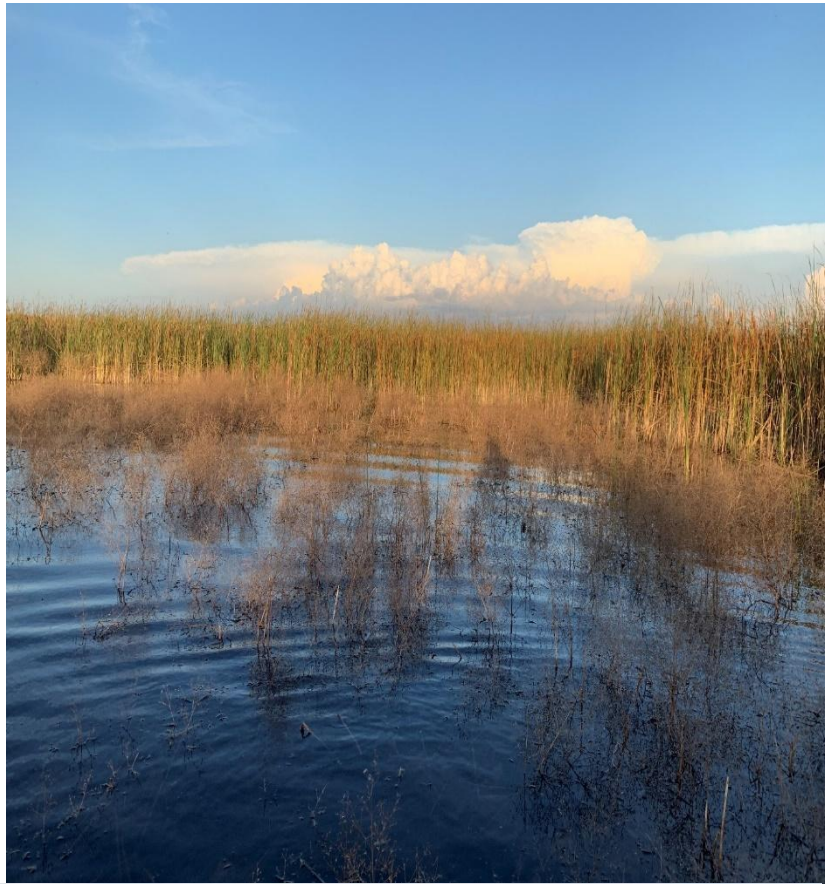
Project highlights

- Move 64,000 cubic yards of dirt for embankments, sediment removal from wetlands, spillways and new meandering stream channel
- 12,000 Lineal feet of tile removed
- Removed 1,500 feet of grassed waterway and open ditch to construct a new 4,500 foot meandering channel with rock riffles and pools. This was designed to restore a 25 acre flood plain by the stream overtopping its banks on a two year flood event.
- Restored 37 wetlands totaling 111 acres from temporary to semi-permanent depressional, swale, and floodplain wetlands
- Contoured seeding to match soil and wetland types using dry prairie, Mesic prairie, wet meadow, and emergent wetland seed mixes

🦅 Swessinger WMA-Jones Tract 🦅



🦅 Swessinger WMA-Jones Tract 🦅



Rooney Run/Seymour Lake WMA-Complex

880 acre Prairie/Wetland Complex, 3 miles North and 3 miles East of Sherburn in Martin County, MN

- 280 acre Krahmer Tract Ducks Unlimited acquisition
- 146 acre Tenhassen Farms Tract Ducks Unlimited acquisition
- 15 acre Dick Tract Fox Lake Conservation League acquisition
- 40 acre Olson Tract Fox Lake Conservation League acquisition
- 46 acre Miller Tract Fox Lake Conservation League acquisition

Pre-restoration conditions

- 200 acres of the Krahmer tract was pattern tiled with 160,000 feet of tile including three branches of county tile
- Two shallow lakes in intense ag and drained land scape sustained high water levels and poor water quality

Partner Driven Outcome

- Maximize wetland areas with minimal future maintenance
- Create addition wetland areas to filter and slow water from tile outlets prior to entering Round Lake
- Remove as much tile as feasible

Design Challenges and Solutions

- A reluctant township denying several elements of the project. They were not pleased with public land purchase because of perceived; loss of property tax revenue, taking prime farmland out of private ownership, DNR lack of future maintenance, weed issues and maintaining drainage on township roads and adjacent farm ground. Required lots of meetings, providing additional information and adjusting the design to reconfigure a wetland restoration adjacent to the road.
- County Tile impounding, rerouting and abandonment had to be petitioned, design reviewed by engineering consultant and hearing with owners of the county tile system. Drainage capacity had to be matched and maintained.
- Existing hog barn with tile around perimeter needed to be maintained and a second barn was being planned by private landowner. One of the

branches of county tile could have been eliminated if not for the proposed hog building. The county tile branch elevation needed to be able to take the perimeter tile from the proposed barn and a new line was installed for the existing barn.

Project highlights

- Move 42,7745 cubic yards of dirt for embankments, sediment removal from wetlands and spillways
- 54,255 Lineal feet of tile removed
- 3,050 Lineal feet of new tile installed
- Restored 34 wetlands totaling 70 acres from temporary to semi-permanent depressional, swale, and floodplain wetlands
- Contoured seeding to match soil and wetland types using Mesic prairie, wet meadow, and emergent wetland seed mixes



🦅 Rooney Run/Seymour Lake WMA-Complex 🦅



Swan Lake-Fish Barrier

10,000 acre Shallow Lake, 1 mile North and 1 mile West of Nicollet in Nicollet County, MN

Pre-restoration conditions

- MNDNR found common carp in Swan Lake in the mid-2000's
- A drawdown was conducted but DNR wanted to prevent carp from reentering the lake

Partner Driven Outcome

- Modify the existing water control structure to prevent carp from reentering Swan Lake

Construction Challenges and Solutions

- This project was designed before I worked for Ducks Unlimited so I was responsible for overseeing the construction
- Winter weather was the biggest challenge on this project, making access to the site difficult to bring in materials, pouring concrete and welding in below zero temps, maintain a dry work area with upstream and downstream water 4-6' above work area, and hoisting catwalk and screens in high wind conditions.
- Screen frames and catwalk components were prefabricated so H-piles needed to be placed perfectly

🦅Swan Lake-Fish Barrier🦅



References

James Streifel, PE

Manager of Engineering- Minnesota, Retired
Ducks Unlimited
Bismarck, North Dakota
(701)391-2831

Brian Nyborg

Area Wildlife Manager
MN Department of Natural Resources
Windom, Minnesota
(507)832-6017

Jim Jones

Bloom Township Supervisor
Wilmont, Minnesota
(507)360-2211

Gary Seivie

Farmer
Wilmont, Minnesota
(507)360-8276



RESPONSE 6

From: Amanda Wold <amandaw@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov>

Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 3:47 PM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: RE: Council Questions

Amanda,

Thank you for sharing this, I had not seen this question from the Council.

The reason for the higher price of this project/acre is due to site accessibility. Where much of the invasive species/buckthorn removal work will be done is on steep hill slopes within the Minnesota River valley. We also anticipate that the majority of this work will be done by hand due to a. accessibility of the sites, and b. culturally significant/protected resources along the hillslopes. The USC Office of the Environment will be working closely with our Tribal Historic Preservation Office to monitor and protect culturally significant sites throughout the duration of the project. We hope to be able to use some machinery in some places but where this is not possible, we anticipate hiring a crew to hand cut and stump treat each invasive plant which is more expensive than other restoration projects where machinery can be used for the majority of the project.

Please let me know if you'd like any additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Amanda

Amanda Wold

Environmental Director | Upper Sioux Community

5722 Travers Lane | Granite Falls, MN 56241

Direct: (320) 564-6337 | Mobile: (320) 321-3303

Email: amandaw@uppersiouxcommunity-nsn.gov



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RESPONSE 7

From: Deborah Loon <dloon@mnvalleytrust.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 1, 2022 4:12 PM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Cc: 'Bob McGillivray' <Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org>
Subject: RE: Council Questions

Hi Amanda –

Metro Big Rivers had one question, which pertained to the parcel TPL has included in both our MBR13 (HA11) proposal and the St. Croix Watershed 4 (HA12) proposal. TPL addressed this and provided information about the significant parcel it hopes to protect in the supplemental fact sheet provided with the proposal (attached). Would you like us to provide a brief memo and the fact sheet? Or do you feel it has been sufficiently addressed?

Thanks.
Deb

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

TPL and Metro Big Rivers

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is working to permanently protect high-quality habitat for fish and wildlife along the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix rivers and their tributaries in the Twin Cities region. Despite the impacts of development in the metropolitan urbanizing area, high-quality riparian, forest, wetland and grassland habitat remain. By protecting these threatened lands, we are able to safeguard diverse ecosystems and create close-to-home opportunities for millions of Minnesotans to experience a variety of wildlife-based recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing.

To date, TPL has protected 1,741 acres through Metro Big Rivers with 9 OHF supported acquisitions. We work in partnership with local community and state government partners. Funding comes from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, foundations and individual donors.

Example of Our Work

William H. Houlton Conservation Area

With 7 miles of shoreline at the confluence of the Mississippi and Elk Rivers, this 335 acre property was previously one of the largest pieces of unprotected land along this stretch of the Mississippi. Now its floodplain forest, oak savanna, and restored prairie provide outstanding public hunting and fishing opportunities. With OHF funding, it was protected by TPL and restored / enhanced by Friends of the Mississippi River through multiple phases of Metro Big Rivers.



MBR Phase 13 / ML2023 Proposal

Keystone Woods WMA

TPL proposes the creation of a significant new WMA in Washington County. This 2,600+ acre property has high biodiversity significance, a number of lakes and excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife, waterfowl and fish. It is one of Washington County's Top 10 Priority Conservation Areas and connects other conservation areas in a corridor to the St. Croix River.

As one of the largest blocks of private land in single ownership in the metro area, this new WMA would provide quality close-to-home hunting and fishing opportunities for metro residents who may be new to WMAs.

Of the 2,600 acres, 1,840 would become the new WMA, with the balance being acquired by Washington County with separate funding, thus leveraging over \$11m of non-OHF funds.

TPL proposes to protect a portion of the WMA land through this proposal and another through its St. Croix proposal. This is a very rare opportunity to protect such a large block of high quality habitat within the Metro Urbanizing Area.



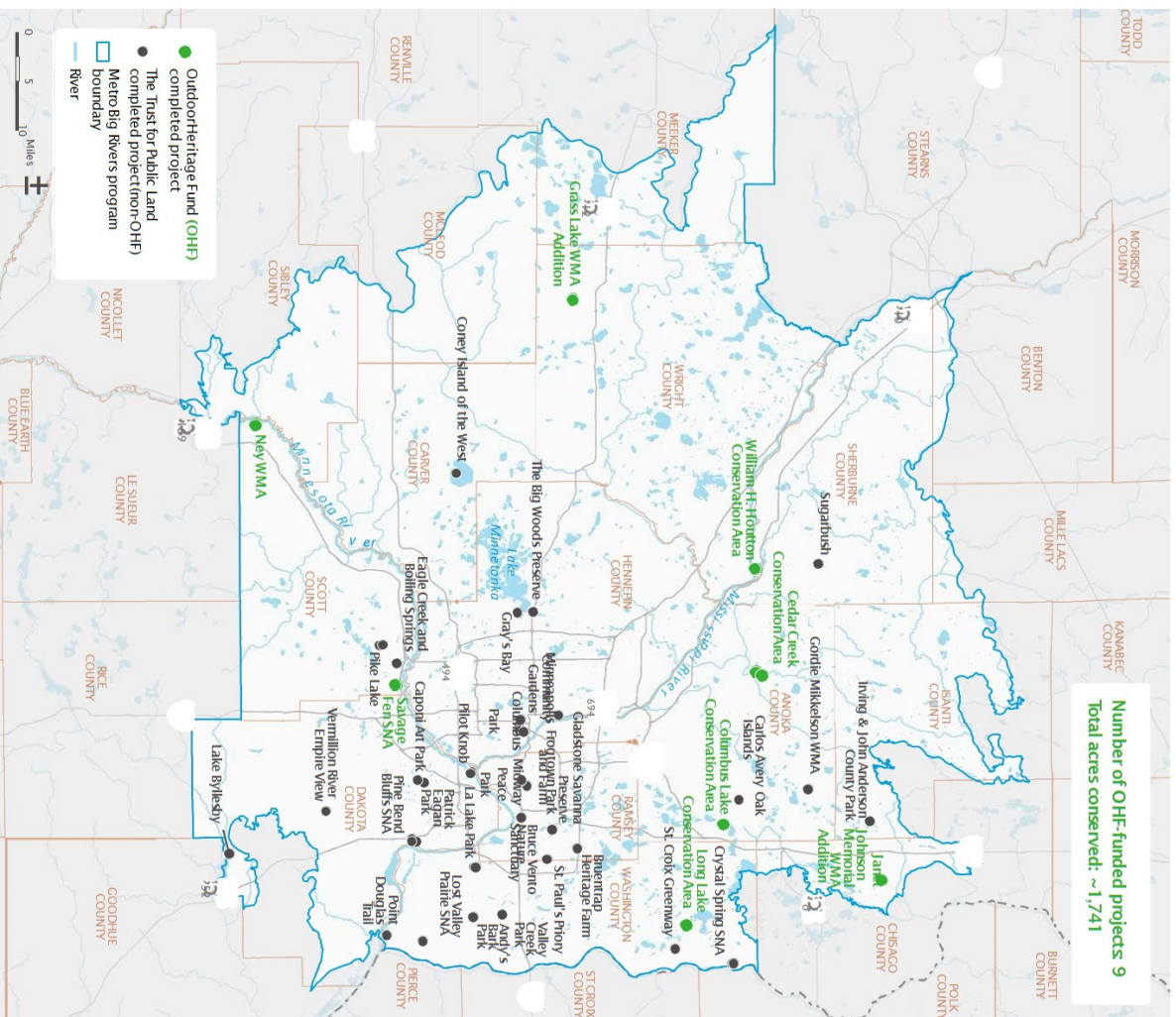
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tpl.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

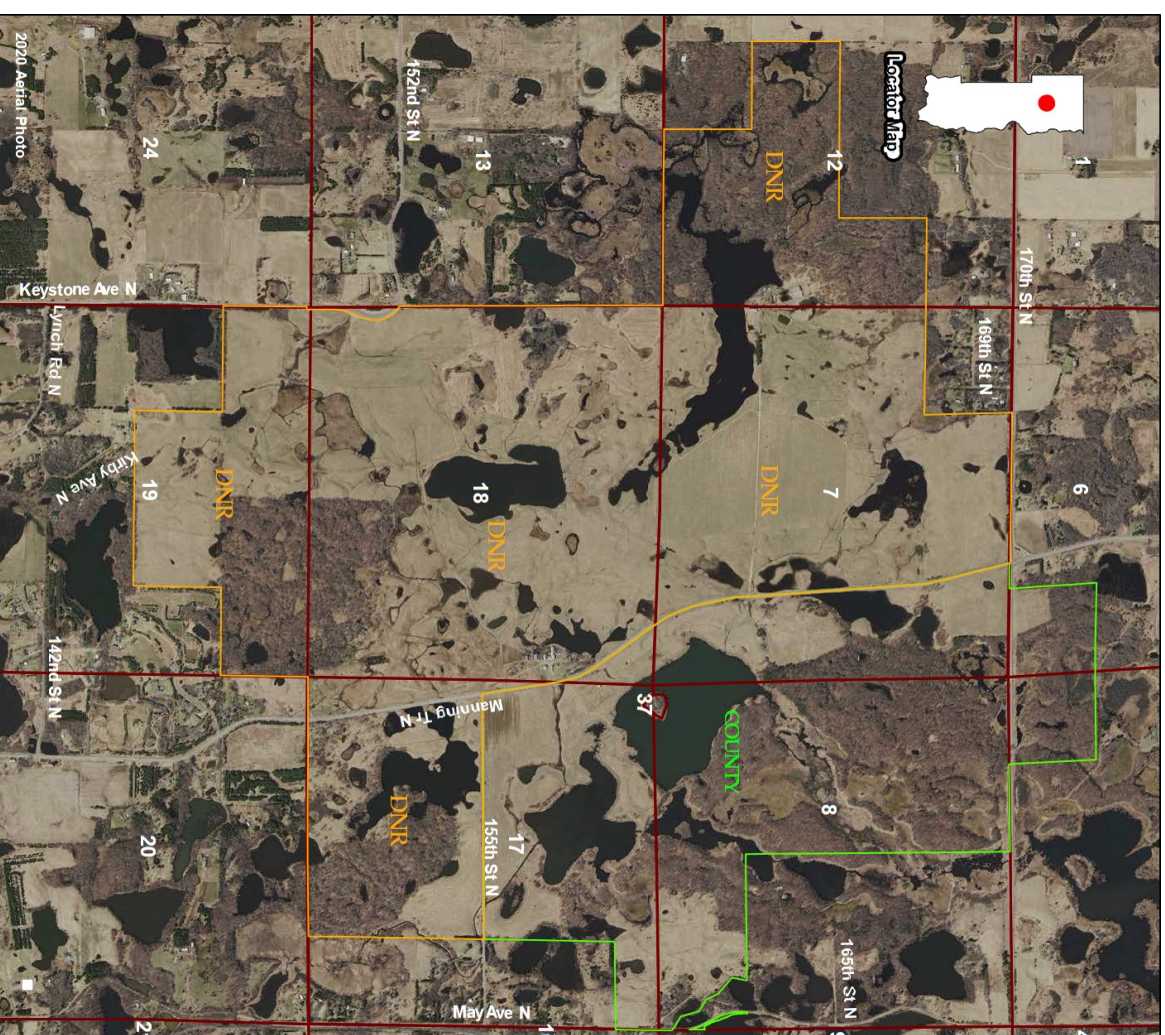
Bob McGillivray - Land Protection Director
2610 University Avenue, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55114
651.999.5307
Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org

PHOTOS: Andy Richter
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Metro Big Rivers - TPL



Keystone Woods WMA Acquisition Washington County T31, R20 S 5-8, 17-19, 37 and T31, R21, S12 2,602 acres



RESPONSE 8

From: Tillma, Jeff S (DNR) <jeff.tillma@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 9:08 AM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Cc: Walsh, Rick J (DNR) <rick.walsh@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Council Questions

Amanda,

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to Council Members questions. Council Member Swenson commented on our proposal HA09 asking the question about why we didn't report leverage in our proposal compared to previous years.

As a state agency we cannot make a commitment of funds or leverage without having that funding encumbered or reserved for that specific use. At the time of our proposal we don't know what our acquisition costs will be and thus we can't encumber matching funds. Historically we have matched Outdoor Heritage appropriations for WMA and SNA acquisitions with landowner donations, Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match and Surcharge (a \$6.50 surcharge on small game license sales). We are also able to use our acquisitions for match to receive reimbursement through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration program. The amount of match varies from year to year and once an acquisition is completed, we can report our match or leverage for that acquisition.

Jeff Tillma

Land Acquisition Consultant | Division of Fish and Wildlife

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

1201 E. Hwy. 2

Grand Rapids, MN, 55744

Phone: 218-244-1876

Email: jeff.tillma@state.mn.us
mndnr.gov



RESPONSE 9

From: McCarty, Michael <mmccarty@mankatomn.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 11:10 AM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Cc: Arntz, Susan <sarntz@mankatomn.gov>
Subject: RE: Council Questions

Good morning Amanda,

Thank you for the follow up email. I wanted to reach out and provide some additional information to each of the comments made from the members

Mr. Edmondson: *Some board members may not be familiar with all the language used to describe wetland types. So describing wetlands in indicator species section as type 1-7 needs more explanation.*

The types of wetlands that are proposed are many of the types of wetlands found in southern Minnesota. These would include seasonal wet basins that have mostly grasses and rushes, shallow basins that have cattail communities and deeper water that has submergent vegetation. Additionally, over time various tree species may establish themselves through natural recruitment in the various complexes allowing for more diversity in the ecosystems present within the project area.

Mr. Hartwell: *Seems like the personnel are already on the city staff, just assigned to other tasks and would be therefore a type of supplanting*

City staff would manage the overall design and restoration oversight during this project. Any staff effort that is applied to a design and construction project is viewed as reimbursable through the project, in a similar fashion that a consultant. Other City projects using engineering staff professional services reimburse for the time on the project. The staff time that is anticipated for this project is for development of the final design of the project in collaboration with a consultant engineer and the contract management and oversight of the contractors performing restoration work. Requested reimbursement for staff time would not take place for land acquisition, only restoration activities.

Mr. Holsten: *Is this more than a park /stormwater management*

The restored wetland would be more than a park/stormwater area. The area would restore and protect a drained wetland basin that is in an area of development pressure. The habitat that would be created from this project would be open to the public as a natural resource area. Some minor improvements would be made to allow the public to utilize and enjoy the habitat. This may include a small parking area, mowed paths to interesting or unique resources within the project and the ability for hunting as a part of the City's deer hunt. Allowing a measure of access to the area would allow for many users with reliability resources to access a natural area outside of traditional State Parks and other natural areas.

Mr. Schara: *Park?*

This area would be a natural resource area for residents and visitors to enjoy. It would not be a managed park in the traditional sense of the term but an open space that would have access created for

it. This may include a small parking area, mowed paths to interesting or unique resources within the project and the ability for hunting as a part of the City's deer hunt. Overall management of the project area in the long term would be through the City of Mankato Parks and Open Space Plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Michael J McCarty, PE
Assistant City Engineer
City of Mankato
Desk: 507-387-8643
Mobile: 507-317-0415

RESPONSE 10

From: Lien, Ricky (DNR) <ricky.lien@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 11:13 AM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Cc: Wilder, Kelly (DNR) <kelly.wilder@state.mn.us>
Subject: RE: Council Questions

Hello Amanda,

Thank you for the chance to respond to questions/comments about WRE05, Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancements, Phase 15. Please share this response with LSOHC members and staff as appropriate.

DSS seems high - The Minnesota DNR uses a standardized formula to determine Direct Support Service amounts for all submitted OHF proposals and accomplishment plans. This method has been in place for a number of years and we can provide the methodology upon request.

Significant carryforward and projected time completion – This programmatic proposal includes funding requests for both significant wetland and shallow lake infrastructure engineering and construction and to continue past OHF commitments for Shallow Lake Program shallow lake specialists. This “project and program” type request is similar to past Minnesota DNR programmatic requests. While annual staffing expenditures in these proposals tend to be consistent throughout the life of these appropriations, expenditures for wetland and shallow lake infrastructure engineering and construction tend to begin slowly, then increase in the latter years of an appropriation due to the fact that these are complicated projects that entail a lot of initial work to obtain permits, marshal engineering resources, conduct surveys, etc. Past OHF appropriations have seen this initial slow rate of expenditures in early years, but that is followed by significant expenditures in the latter years of appropriations as construction of these major projects is undertaken. Final reports for the DNR’s programmatic wetland appropriations shows that a high percentage of funding is expended and accomplishment plan acreage goals are exceeded.

Carlos Avery - Bonding?- Carlos Avery WMA is a premier property for metro Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Sunrise Unit at Carlos Avery features two 35-foot dams that are vital for 670 acres of wetlands, but the dams are 57 years old. These dams are in disrepair and a preliminary feasibility report has identified newer designs that would lead to better management of the wetlands and would additionally provide for better monitoring of the wetlands and address safety issues. The requested funding would allow for final design work by engineers, to be followed by construction. The cost for this work will be significant and all available funding sources have been considered – federal programs, bonding, etc. OHF funding is the only viable funding source available at this time. Specific to bonding, it is only intermittently available and, even when available, can’t always be used for habitat work. No state bonding appropriation is available at this time for consideration for this project.

Thank you.

Ricky

Ricky Lien

Wetland Habitat Team Supervisor | Division of Fish and Wildlife

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road

St Paul, MN 55155-4020

Phone: 651-259-5227

Fax: 651-297-4961

Email: ricky.lien@state.mn.us
mndnr.gov



RESPONSE 11

From: Olson, Jennifer A (DNR) <jennifer.a.olson@state.mn.us>

Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 12:33 PM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: Member comment on Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions

Hello Amanda-

I will address the one specific question that I see from Chairman Hartwell in the Member Comments document concerning the Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions proposal.

Chairman Hartwell comment: "Still seeing IDP in proposals. How will this work?"

Answer: The ML23 Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions is a new administrative proposal that we are not certain will be funded. We advised partners to continue to have all DNR Land Acquisition Costs and DNR IDP costs come out of their respective fee title land acquisition budgets, which is how these costs have been traditionally budgeted. It is our understanding that fee title land acquisition proposals rarely get funded at 100% of the original proposal request. If the new administrative proposal is funded and partner proposals are funded at a reduced rate, partners would amend their budgets to the appropriate funding levels required, which would include reducing the amount in the DNR Land Acquisition Costs and DNR IDP budget lines.

Hopefully this helps answer the Chairman's question. We will be in-person on September 13th to answer any follow-up questions Council members may have.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Olson

Jennifer Olson

Initial Development Coordinator | Division of Fish and Wildlife

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, MN, 55155

Cell: 517-331-1742

Office: 651-259-5245

Email: jennifer.a.olson@state.mn.us

RESPONSE 12

From: Kate Kubiak <kkubiak@DuluthMN.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Subject: Re: Council Questions

Hello Amanda,
For the Buckingham Creek Brook Trout Restoration Project question/comment: golf course irrigation stream????

Buckingham Creek was serving as the source of irrigation water for a golf course for many years. Taking the creek off-line as the irrigation source for the course and restoring the creek to a healthy trout stream are the primary goals of this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Kate Kubiak

Kate Kubiak

Natural Resources Coordinator

City of Duluth

411 W 1st St.

Duluth, MN 55802

(218) 580-9150 Cell {Preferred}

(218) 730-4329 City Ofc.

kkubiak@duluthmn.gov

RESPONSE 13

From: Alan Kraus <alan@cleanriverpartners.org>

Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 2:59 PM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Cc: kristi pursell <kristi@cleanriverpartners.org>; Nick Bancks <nick.bancks@tpl.org>; Brad Gordon <bgordon@greatrivergreening.org>; Dane McKittrick <dane@cleanriverpartners.org>; Bob McGillivray <Bob.McGillivray@tpl.org>

Subject: Re: Council Questions

Hello Amanda,

Thank you for the extended opportunity to respond to comments on our proposal HA15 Cannon River Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration Program, Phase 12. Regarding Council Member Hartwell's comment about how it will work having Clean River Partners manage the project for only 3 years while Great River Greening will carry out restorations and enhancements for 5 years, Clean River Partners is preparing budget adjustments that will allow staff to administer the program through all five years of restoration and enhancement activities undertaken by Great River Greening through this program if funded. The 3 years of administration was based on traditional timelines from previous phases, and we did not change it to 5 years after rules changed last year. Regarding Council member Holsten's comment about overlap of proposal HA15 with proposal WRE01, Clean River Partners and Great River Greening have been in communication with the petitioners of proposal WRE01 to discuss potential project overlap and there is none. Boyd Sartell WMA is listed on both proposals, but we are working on different areas and habitat types. There is no administration overlap. We discussed how to utilize each organization's strengths to deliver conservation in tandem across the Big Woods on these and future projects.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you again,

Al

Alan Kraus

Conservation Program Manager

Clean River Partners (formerly Cannon River Watershed Partnership)

710 Division Street

Northfield, MN 55057

507-786-3913 Office

715-897-1646 Cell

alan@cleanriverpartners.org

<http://cleanriverpartners.org/>

RESPONSE 14

From: Walsh, Rick J (DNR) <rick.walsh@state.mn.us>

Sent: Friday, September 2, 2022 3:23 PM

To: Tillma, Jeff S (DNR) <jeff.tillma@state.mn.us>; Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: RE: Council Questions

Hi Amanda,

Council Member Swenson had the same question about leverage regarding proposal HA10 (DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements) so I thought I would piggy back on Jeff's answer below since it applies here also.

As Jeff noted, as a state agency we cannot commit to funding that is not already encumbered, and at the time of our proposals we don't have such funds encumbered. That said, we have historically augmented our OHF funding for trout stream easement acquisition with Reinvest In Minnesota Critical Habitat Match money, as well as Trout & Salmon stamp revenue. In the past three fiscal years we have averaged about \$200,000 per year in Trout & Salmon used for trout stream easements. Critical Habitat Match money has totaled about \$215,000 in the past three years. We have also used about \$30,000 Sales & Reinvestment money.

Council Member Swenson also asked about partners' role in trout stream conservation easements. While partners have not typically participated directly in the acquisition process, they have been heavily involved in trout stream habitat restoration projects in collaboration with DNR for many years. The restoration projects typically take place on stretches of stream that are under easement. Partners' role includes on the ground work, planning, identifying needed easements, and seeking funding.

Thanks for the opportunity to reply and let me know if more questions crop up.

Rick Walsh

Land Acquisition Consultant | Division of Fish & Wildlife

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Phone: 651-259-5232

Cell: 763-360-8824

Email: rick.walsh@state.mn.us

mndnr.gov



RESPONSE 15

From: Erik Jones <ejones@houstoneng.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 3, 2022 8:58 AM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Cc: Kristine Altrichter <kaltrichter@brrwd.org>; Bennett Uhler <buhler@houstoneng.com>

Subject: RE: Council Questions

Amanda,

On behalf of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, I am providing additional information related to the BRRWD's OHF proposal HA05, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Stream Habitat Program, Phase 3. Please find attached additional information to address questions or comments Council members made regarding our application.

I look forward to visiting with you and the Council more during our hearing on September 12th.

Sincerely,

Erik Jones, BRRWD District Engineer

Erik Jones, PE

Senior Civil Engineer | Principal

📞 701.237.5065 | 📠 701.499.2055



Applicant: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD)

Additional Information/Answers to Council Member Comments

1. Why would new roads be established? Where would those funds come from?

- a. Answer: In general, no new roads are envisioned for this project. The exception is unless they are for the purpose of eliminating another field road within the proposed conservation easement or if they provide a beneficial purpose for long-term easement monitoring, maintenance, and enforcement. Although not anticipated, if a field road would need to be moved or improved other non-OHF funds would be used for that work.

2. More information on the scaling Question in terms of accomplishment seems needed.

- a. Answer: There are economies of scale that come along with projects of this nature. The larger the stream restoration reach, the less expensive the restoration is per foot. To better answer the questions in the proposal:
 - i. At full funding the project is anticipated to restore 9.3 miles of stream and acquire 1084 acres of permanent conservation easement along these streams.
 - ii. If the project receives 70% funding, we anticipate that the BRRWD could accomplish 5.5 to 6 miles of stream restoration and 650 acres of permanent conservation easement.
 - iii. If the project receives 50% funding, we anticipate that the BRRWD could accomplish 3.5 to 4 miles of stream restoration and 440 acres of permanent conservation easement.

3. Large 2018 carry forward balance?

- a. Answer: **The 2018 funding will be largely expended by the end of 2024.** In Spring of 2022, the BRRWD opened construction bids on the restoration project and awarded a contract for the first phase of river restoration work. The contractor's bid was about \$800,000 for 4.6 miles of river restoration contemplated by the Phase 1 project. This exceeds the 3 miles of restoration planned in the accomplishment plan. The current Phase 1 river restoration construction contract has a completion deadline of Oct. 1, 2024. Based on the current accomplishment plan, there is \$950,000 in contracts. Depending on how construction goes, any remaining contracts funding may be used to extend restoration construction further downstream. The BRRWD anticipated the start of construction to begin a few years ago, however, some of the upfront project development took longer than anticipated. The BRRWD spent a lot of time meeting multiple times with one family in the middle of the restoration trying to facilitate a land deal that ultimately was successful with Pheasants Forever and the BRRWD partnering to make a purchase of 320 acres for permanent conservation a reality. That purchase will become the Rogelstad Wildlife Management Area. The BRRWD has also spent significant time working with landowners on other easements for the project. One of those landowners involved DNR which took time to negotiate. Another couple parcels have RIM on them and the BRRWD took time to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with BWSR for long term maintenance on those RIM easements.

4. Leverage commitment seems unclear

- a. Answer: The BRRWD is committed to bringing as much leverage as possible to the projects they develop. In the case of this application, the BRRWD has applied to the NRCS's National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) for our South Branch Buffalo River Restoration project. The BRRWD is currently developing a readiness report for the NRCS anticipated to be completed later this year. In 2023, the BRRWD expects to apply for and receive implementation funding through that program. On a similar stream restoration project being completed by the BRRWD on Whiskey Creek, the BRRWD was awarded \$2.9 million dollars through that program. The BRRWD will find out in Fall of 2023 on how much the NRCS NWQI funding could contribute to this project. The BRRWD currently anticipates a similar NWQI allocation to what was granted on the Whiskey Creek Restoration Project. In addition, the BRRWD plans to contribute 20 cents for every dollar of RIM easement payment made to landowners as leverage. These dollars will come from a local taxing authority of the BRRWD and is estimated at \$640,000. The other funding that is in hand right now includes approximately \$1.4 million in Clean Water Funds and Watershed Based Implementation Funds through BWSR. Additional Clean Water Funds and Watershed Based Implementation Funding will also be pursued. Finally, the BRRWD has also obtained a \$320,000 Flood Hazard Mitigation grant which with local contribution will bring a total of \$640,000 (50/50 grant/local match) to the project through the MN DNR that can be used for some of the land acquisition. The BRRWD will continue to look for additional funding opportunities to leverage the OHF dollars further.

RESPONSE 16

From: Tracey Von Bargen <tracey.vonbargen@co.grant.mn.us>

Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 7:15 AM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: WRE04 Additional Information

Dear LSOHC Council Member,

Grant County Submitted a grant request for the FY2024/ML2023 round of LSOHC funding. This is our first request from the LSOHC, the reason we submitted a grant application was to develop habitat projects in Grant County.

For this proposal we partnered with a company named Field to Flyway Engineering, LLC to identify projects and help draft the grant request. Their business profile was attached to the WRE01 email for addressing the Council comments, if you feel inclined to investigate the company.

Grant County has continued to work with additional conservation groups in our area and has added partners that increased our leveraged dollars by \$10,000. Letters of support are also attached.

Our grant request generated some questions from the council that we would like to address. This email is a summary but the attached letter has more detail, as recommended by LSOHC staff.

David Hartwell-Curious how the language "water control structure would be designed by an engineering consultant with vast experience in natural resource bioengineering and installed by a qualified contractor who specialize in heavy civil and infrastructure construction" is exactly the same as appears in WRE01. Will the project be put out widely for complete bidding or has the contracting team already been selected?

Field to Flyway Engineering worked with both Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers and Grant County which submitted WRE04 so some of the responses to the application questions are similar.

Project contracts and professional services will be awarded according to MNDNR procurement requirements.

David Hartwell- The proposal indicated if funds are not received, the County will take other less expensive action to address high water threatening roads. So why is the county not putting up match dollars that are equal to what it would spend on this option as part of this proposal instead of asking for the vast majority of funds (outside of in-kind match) from LSOHC?

We came up with the \$75,000 in-kind match as an estimate to what the county might have spent on addressing the roads without habitat components. Instead of putting the money to the road project, we are putting that \$75,000 towards the habitat aspects of these projects. This in-kind match is an actual cost to the county because county staff is taking time to administer this grant, rather than working on other county projects.

Grant County looks forward to working with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, MNDNR, USFWS, and other partners to improve habitat in Grant County.

Tracey Von Bargaen, PE
Grant County Engineer
PO Box 1005, 224 3rd Street SE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Phone: 218-685-8301
Cell: 218-770-2840
tracey.vonbargaen@co.grant.mn.us

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Dear Council Members,

Coots Unlimited is happy to support and provide \$5,000 of cash leverage for Grant County's "Shallow Lake Enhancements in Grant County" LSOHC grant application. We will provide these funds for construction of the proposed water control structure for Strehlo Slough. We believe this local project will provide better public hunting opportunities for our youth and many others.

Coots Unlimited was started in 1979 to provide youth activities and advance conservation in Ashby, Minnesota. Our 400 plus member's from all over MN from lakes country to the Twin Cities to Fargo continue to support our organization because of what we have done in the community. Projects and organizations we have helped over the years are:

Building 300 Woodduck houses annually with the Highschool trap team. They then sell for a fundraiser.

Provide additional support for high school trap team

Provide funds for fish stocking of area lakes

Send kids to Woodie Camp

Winter food plots

Community Fish House

Purchased an 80 parcel and enrolled in RIM/WRP

We hope that the council also supports this project in our local area.

Thank you

Sam Balgaard

President, Coots Unlimited

Watercolor by Ross Hier, 1986. The logo of the Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust shows an upland sandpiper perched on an old hay mower. The mower rests in an odd corner of native prairie, surrounded by an array of colorful wildflowers—such is our pioneer heritage!



Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust
P.O. Box 337
Evansville, MN 56326

www.phctrust.org

To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
From: Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust
Subject: Shallow Lake Enhancements in Grant County Request for Funding

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer heritage Conservation Trust (PHCT), I am writing in support of the Shallow Lake Enhancements in Grant County Request for Funding. The project aligns well with the Mission and activities of PHCT.

At our June 13, 2022 Board meeting, our Board of Directors passed a motion in support of the project and approved \$5,000 in matching funds as well.

The Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust was established in 1985 by a group of hunter/sportsmen. Our Mission is: **To Preserve the Land and its Resources.** Our funding is provided through memberships and an endowment fund created in 1985. We are a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization serving the Minnesota counties of Douglas, Grant, Ottertail and Pope.

To fulfill our Mission, PHCT provides financial and In-Kind assistance for conservation projects in our four-county area. Generally, this takes the form of partnering with other organizations to leverage our limited financial resources. Since 2012, we have been very active participants in the Outdoor Heritage Fund's Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) program. PHCT has participated in 16 different projects (grants) for a total of \$681,080. Including our 10% match consisting of some direct financial and/or In-Kind contributions of \$83,238, the total activity to date is \$764,318.

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust is a nonprofit corporation, 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Our time on earth is brief, yet the land goes on forever, carrying with it the marks of each succeeding landowner. As fleeting trespassers on land that belongs to future generations, we must touch the land gently, caring for it as true stewards, so that those who assess our record will see our love and respect for the land and life (Robert B. Oetting).

Another key activity of the PHCT is providing college scholarships to students who Major in the field of environmental sciences. We provide scholarships up to \$1,000.00 for students who live within our four-county area and whose Major qualifies. In 2022, we awarded two \$1,000.00 scholarships and one \$500.00 scholarship.

We are particularly encouraged to see local schools will be involved to help teach children to appreciate our natural resources and to become engaged in a project like this. This lines up well with PHCT's Classroom Scholarship program.

Another important activity of the PHCT is the placement and maintenance of duck nesting platforms. We have placed, in excess, of 400 such platforms in shallow lakes and sloughs which provide nesting habitat for primarily mallard ducks, while at the same time preventing predators from raiding the nests.

The membership of PHCT runs around 100 or so. Most members reside within the four-county area, but we have several from the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro including Plymouth, Waconia, Blaine, and Mendota Heights. We've had members from as far away as Florida!

PHCT continues to work closely with other organizations to fulfill our Mission. Examples include the MNDNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and many local conservation groups in our local area.

In conclusion, we very much support the Shallow lake Enhancements in Grant County Application and strongly encourage the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to approve the project for funding.

Thank You.

Rick Banke, President

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust

Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust is a nonprofit corporation, 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Our time on earth is brief, yet the land goes on forever, carrying with it the marks of each succeeding landowner. As fleeting trespassers on land that belongs to future generations, we must touch the land gently, caring for it as true stewards, so that those who assess our record will see our love and respect for the land and life (Robert B. Oetting).

Grant County Highway Department

Tracey Von Bargaen, P.E.
County Engineer
tracey.vonbargaen@co.grant.mn.us

P.O. Box 1005 224 3rd St. SE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Office 218.685.8300

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
State Office Building, Room 55
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: WRE04 Shallow Lake Enhancements in Grant County by Grant County
Field to Flyway Engineering, LLC

Council Members,

For the ML2023/FY2024 round of LSOHC Grants Grant County has decided to work with Field to Flyway Engineering, to apply for funding to perform Shallow Lake Enhancements in Grant County. We would like to introduce the two organizations and answer the member comments.

Grant County is located in west central Minnesota and is part of the Prairie Pothole Region. Grant County has many lakes but unlike our neighbors to the north and east only a few would be considered recreational lakes with shoreline development and boating. Most are shallow lakes surrounded by agricultural lands which is the core of the county's economy. These projects will provide improved habitat to breeding and migrating waterfowl as well as many other species.

Field to Flyway Engineering was started to deliver wetland restoration and other conservation projects by Aaron M. Weinandt, P.E. and Kelli A. Weinandt. Working on wetland restorations and shallow lake enhancements for 11 years, Aaron has developed techniques to maximize quality wetland habitat. Field to Flyway Engineering is also looking to assist past OHF applicants to increase the capacity of past OHF recipients, as the council discussed at the July 28, 2022 meeting and briefly at the council project tour on August 18th.

There were a few comments regarding WRE04 Shallow Lake Enhancements in Grant County.

David Hartwell-Curious how the language "water control structure would be designed by an engineering consultant with vast experience in natural resource bioengineering and installed by a qualified contractor who specialize in heavy civil and infrastructure construction" is exactly the same as appears in WRE01. Will the project be put out widely for competitive bidding or has the contracting team already been selected?

Field to Flyway Engineering worked with both Grant County and Scott - Le Sueur Waterfowlers which submitted WRE01 so some of the responses to the application questions are similar.

The project contracts will be awarded according to MNDNR Procurement requirements for both the professional services components and the construction contracts. Field to Flyway Engineering has helped apply for the LSOHC grant and would be allowed to submit an engineering proposal, but there is no guarantee to be hired as the engineering consultant.

David Hartwell- The proposal indicated if funds are not received, the County will take other less expensive action to address high water threatening roads. So why is the county not putting up match dollars that are equal to what it would spend on this option as part of this proposal instead of asking for the vast majority of funds (outside of in-kind match) from LSOHC?

Grant County Highway Department

Tracey Von Bargaen, P.E.
County Engineer
tracey.vonbargaen@co.grant.mn.us

P.O. Box 1005 224 3rd St. SE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Office 218.685.8300

Only four of the nine basins in this proposal have a direct influence on a road. The reason the other basins were included is twofold:

- 1) Several of these lakes are directly connected to each other. Rough fish would survive in the connected basins and shortly after water was returned to the enhanced basin, they would recolonize. This would result in very short-term habitat improvements as the rough fish would explode in numbers due to the lack of predators and ideal habitat conditions. Adding the other basins should extend the time needed between drawdowns by trying to eliminate rough fish from the entire system rather than just one basin.
- 2) Adding these other basins also helps create a local habitat complex, especially important for waterfowl during hunting season. Waterfowl can land over the hill in one of our other enhanced shallow lakes to find good feeding and resting condition if they are disturbed on one lake and not have to fly several miles or migrate out of the area.

The \$75,000 in-kind match was an initial estimate to what the county might have spent on addressing the roads without habitat components. Instead of putting the money to the road project, we are putting that \$75,000 towards the habitat aspects of these projects. This in-kind match is an actual cost to the county because county staff is taking time to administer this grant, rather than working on other county projects. Installing the infrastructure to allow management of these shallow lakes will not solve the issues of highwater adjacent to county roads and additional work will need to be performed to get the maximum benefit from the road perspective. This may include adding additional riprap or raising sections of roadways. Any type of road work associated with these projects would be fully covered by the county and are not included in the grant request or as matching funds since they do not meet the constructional requirements to "... *restore, protect, and enhance Minnesota's wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.* . . . " Additionally, nearly \$300,000 has already been invested into these projects to get them to this point where we believe habitat enhancement can be accomplished. That cannot be counted as leverage since it was spent prior to the LSOHC grant being awarded. We are also continuing to work with other area sportsman's clubs to bring in additional partners and matching funds. Since the grant proposal was submitted in May, an additional \$10,000 was secured from Pioneer Heritage Conservation Trust and Coots Unlimited.

Grant County looks forward to working with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, MNDNR, USFWS, and other partners to improve habitat in Grant County.

Sincerely,



Tracey Von Bargaen, PE
Grant County Engineer

RESPONSE 17

From: Windels, Steven K <Steve_Windels@nps.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 8:13 AM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: response to questions from council members on WRE03 - Voyageurs Wetland Restoration Project, Phase 3

Hello Amanda:

Please forward these answers to questions raised on our proposal:

- David Hartwell's Question/Comment: "While the goal of reducing navigational hazards and property damage are understandable, that is not the purpose of Legacy funding under the constitutional dedication."
 - Our response: The goal of removing floating cattail mats is not primarily because of the navigation/property damage aspects, rather our primary goal is to eliminate the ecological damage caused by floating mats detaching to 1) spread new invasions, and 2) smothering/destroying existing wetland vegetation where they settle. These mats also cause damage/impede navigation and therefore eliminating them has a high-value secondary function to society. Unfortunately, we've learned that floating mats are a sort of "land without a country" so to speak, and many mgmt. authorities choose to assume some other mgmt. authority with deal with them, which creates little floating hot potatoes that bounce around and only get attention when they cause real social harm, rather the ecological harm that has already happened.
- Mark Holsten's Question/Comment: "high administration costs"
 - Our response: Voyageurs National Park is a water-based park, which requires a lot of extra infrastructure to access and manage than would a comparable land-based park. The limited natural resource staff that we have are like-wise limited in the personnel and resources that we have available to deal with all of the challenges we face, not just aquatic invasive species. We don't have dedicated Federal staff for restoration work, for example, and therefore we require additional specialized staff be hired through external grants to do this important work. The NPS is contributing a lot in terms of in-kind services of equipment and personnel that we do have available, such as boats, barges, mechanics, etc, etc to be able to assist in accomplishing our work.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond!
Steve

Steve K. Windels, PhD, CWB
Wildlife Biologist
Voyageurs National Park
360 Hwy 11 E, International Falls, MN 56649
c: 218-324-3400; o: 218-283-6692

RESPONSE 18

From: Emily Heinz <emily.heinz@clflwd.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 1:29 PM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Cc: Michael Kinney <michael.kinney@clflwd.org>; Blayne Eineichner <blayne.eineichner@clflwd.org>; Aidan Read <Aidan.Read@clflwd.org>

Subject: RE: Council Questions

Amanda,

In response to councilmember Holsten's question ("unclear about long term ownership/management"): The CLFLWD is committed to perpetually owning and managing as much property as the grant allows us to purchase. If we receive full funding, CLFLWD is committed to owning the full property. If we receive partial funding, we may not be able to acquire the property without additional funding support from other partners. The landowner communicated that he was well past retirement age and wants to sell this land as one whole piece and is ready to sell as soon as possible. He has already met with a realtor to list this property if we don't have a better picture of funding by this fall. We currently do not have funds or a financial partnership in place to make up any difference between the value of the parcel and a partial LSOHC funding scenario. However, we have been actively pursuing other parallel options to be as best positioned as possible to make the acquisition happen. As such, if we are not able to put together a package to fund the full acquisition through the LSOHC grant or some other combination of partners, we may not be able to acquire the property at all.

Additionally, we want to communicate that this is a time sensitive matter, and also reiterate that this property has a combination of values that are difficult to obtain within this region (i.e., single ownership of over 300 acres, single ownership of a 119-acre wetland, excellent habitat restoration opportunities, floodplain storage opportunities, water quality improvement opportunities). Overall, this site is a priority for the CLFLWD. Here is a link to the District's 2021 Progress Report which illustrates how we establish performance metrics and measure progress toward our goals.

http://www.clflwd.org/documents/2021_Progress_Report_Approved_4-28-22.pdf. The CLFLWD has consistently applied the Pareto Principle as it considers all acquisitions, programs, projects, and other expenditures of staff and financial resources. As such, this property ranks in that unique small percentage of high ROI to warrant the level of interest by the CLFLWD to acquire the property.

Attached are two additional letters of support we have received since submitting our grant application in May (Washington County and City of Scandia). Our application included letters of support from the landowner and Bone Lake Association.

Thanks,

Emily Heinz (she/her)

Planning Coordinator

p: (651) 395-5856

e: emily.heinz@clflwd.org

Emily's Office Hours | Mon-Fri 8:30am – 5:00pm
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District
44 Lake St. South, Suite A, Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.clflwd.org | www.facebook.com/clflwd



May 19, 2022

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 55
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155

RE: Letter of Support for CLFLWD Application

Dear Committee Members:

The City of Scandia would like to express its support for the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD)'s application for grant funding for the acquisition of a 120 acre site within the City of Scandia through the Lessard-Sam Outdoor Heritage Council Fund.

This project presents a rare opportunity to acquire a large area of wetlands and native prairieland for preservation. Once acquired the property will be used to improve water quality and natural habitats and to increase floodwater storage for the Bone Lake area. In addition, this beautiful property has the potential to become a valued natural public asset to be appreciated for years to come.

It is important to note that this acquisition of this property is not anticipated to be harmful to Scandia's tax base, as the District intends to sell off the 20 acre homesite. This will maintain the most substantive taxable property value. Also, any future development in this area is unlikely due to its abundant wetlands, so preservation is likely the land's greatest and best use.

CLFLWD has demonstrated its capacity to proactively improve the water quality and the habitats of area waterways and wetland assets. For example, the District recently undertook a major project to remove significant nutrient rich sediment deposits located within major wetlands along the shores of Bone Lake. These heavily loaded soils, from a historic dairy farm, now no longer adversely affect Bone Lake.

The City supports their agencies continued efforts to this end with this grant request that is now under your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Cammilleri, City Administrator
City of Scandia



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Gary Kriesel, District 3
Wayne A. Johnson, District 4, Chair
Lisa Weik, District 5

Date: September 6, 2022

To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 55
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support for Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for your efforts to protect Minnesota's valuable natural areas for current and future generations. State funding partnerships continue to be critical to completion of local land and water protection projects.

Washington County supports the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) in its proposal to purchase the Bone Lake South Wetland property for conservation purposes. The District's Greenway Corridor Initiative identifies the property for protection and habitat enhancement. Portions of the property host a Regionally Significant Ecological Area and are noted by the Minnesota Biological Survey. By preserving this property, which contains native plant species connected with groundwater and a priority wetland draining to Bone Lake, this proposal will help protect wetland habitat (particularly for the threatened Blanding's turtle), groundwater quality, and water quality in Bone Lake. This property also presents an opportunity to increase landscape resiliency to changing weather systems by adding water volume storage that exceeds the goals of the CLFLWD's 10-year Watershed Management Plan, thus helping to protect downstream properties from flooding on Bone Lake and beyond, all the way to the St. Croix River.

There is a track record of strong resident support in Washington County for protecting water and unique, diverse, critical habitats and green spaces. This project is also in alignment with Washington County's Land & Water Legacy Program. As a County Board, we fully support this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne A. Johnson".

Wayne A. Johnson, Chair
Washington County

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fran Miron".

Fran Miron, District 1
Washington County

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

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P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.co.washington.mn.us

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer

RESPONSE 18

From: Morteza Maher <morteza.maher@mstrwd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>
Subject: RE: Council Questions

Hello Amanda,

Please see my responses to the comments we received on Nelson Slough/JD 19 project.

Please confirm your receipt and let me know if there is any questions.

Thank you,
Mori

Morteza Maher PMP
Administrator
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
T: (218) 745-4741 | C: (218) 230-5703
<https://mstrwd.org/>



453 North McKinley St
Warren, MN
56762

OF-22-174

September 7, 2022

Re: Nelson Slough / JD19 project (ID#: WRE06)

Dear LSOH Council members,

We appreciate your review and ranking of our Nelson Slough project OHF application.

This is to clarify and answer comments and questions raised by you during your review process. We tried to keep answers factual and to the point to save your time reviewing them. We hope this letter would clarify those points enough to assist you to help us to move this great project forward. Below please see responses to the 3 comments we received.

Comment 1:

“\$6.192M, Enhance, 2,482 acre impoundment (Nelson Slough), Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (Is this a flood control project?)”

Response:

- 1- Nelson Slough has been a **multi-purpose project** for over 50 years (since 1971) and known more for its Natural Resources and as great recreation facility than flood control structure.
- 2- Nelson Slough is **within East Park WMA (Owned by DNR)**. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD) is working on this project jointly with DNR and is the Project Manager in the process.
- 3- At normal pool elevation, the facility maintains **3410 ac-ft for habitat purposes year round making it unavailable for flood storage.**
- 4- Summer gated storage flood control capacity is 3690 ac-ft, but only activated when nests and habitat are already inundated to provide flood control benefits. This means the NRE benefits outweigh the flood control benefits in both design and operation.
- 5- In 2022, the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group’s NRE panel evaluated and scored this project at 4.66 out of 5 for natural resources benefit. This means with their criterion this project scored **above 90% on NRE benefits**. (their letter can be provided upon request).

Comment 2:

“Seems like more of a flood control project than a habitat one and as such, I would expect the majority of the funding should not come from funds dedicated to habitat. The fact this is not a scalable project is concerning as well.”

Response:

- 1- As for flood control vs. habitat project, please refer to items **3, 4 and 5 above**. The MSTRWD has four other flood control impoundments that are operated as **dry impoundments** which means no unused capacity for flood control purposes. **In these dry impoundments, unlike Nelson Slough, habitat concerns don't dictate** the duration of time which the facility can hold water. Rather it is based on the **downstream flood conditions**.
- 2- Why majority of the fund comes from OHF: If we agree with the fact that the project provides 90% NRE benefits (response 5 above) and understand that the water holding capacity for flood control purposes is lowered by approximately half to meet the NRE needs (responses 3 and 4 above), and also the fact that even the second half of the capacity has limits to provide 100% flood control benefit. Then it is easier to accept that a 70% ask for this great project from OHF is reasonable, justifiable and fair. We should not forget that the local cost share of 30% is an assumed burden on the applicant which has already invested so much to get this project where it is now.
- 3- As for scalability, this is **not a program-based** funding request but rather a **project-based funding** request, meaning the project cannot be broken down to smaller pieces in a cost-effective way. The outlet structure is tied to the levee and vice versa. **Draw down** of the impoundment during construction can **negatively affect the existing habitat** if it continues for too long. Hence, we will try to keep the construction timeline as short as possible, which consequently requires the full budget in hand to get the project started.

Comment 3:

"Aggressive timeline"

Response:

- 1- We understand the timeline **is aggressive**. We aim to finish the project as quick and feasibly as possible. Please refer to response 3 under comment 2 for reasoning. Also please note that the existing 50-year old facility does not meet today's dam safety standards, which means the facility is in a danger category regarding its stability and safety.
- 2- We have accomplished much of the logistics and behind the scenes activities, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Project work team establishment and its process,
 - b. Developed and selected best alternative;
 - c. Received the USACE's approval on the selected alternative as Least Environmentally Damaging and Practicable Alternative;
 - d. Completed the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and found that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was unnecessary;
 - e. Drafted an Operation and Maintenance plan in a joint effort with DNR, MSTRWD and JD 19 Ditch Authority;
 - f. Drafted a Joint Powers Agreement between all parties;
 - g. Completed a Preliminary Engineers' report;
 - h. Have begun the permitting process;

With all the knowledge in hand, **it is safe to plan for construction in 2023-4** provided funding is available.

We hope this will help you to help us to build a good long lasting environmentally resilient project on the ground!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email us at:

218-745-4741 or Morteza.maher@mstrwd.org

Kind Regards,

Mori Maher

Mori Maher
MSTRWD Administrator

RESPONSE 19

From: Sue Polka <spolka@southstpaul.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 2:32 PM

To: Amanda Schnabel <amanda.schnabel@lsohc.mn.gov>

Subject: FW: Council Questions HRE05

Amanda-

Here is our response to the council questions regarding our proposal.

I. HRE05 Seidls Lake Park Habitat Restoration Project \$637K, South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights, City of South St. Paul

LSOHC Questions Response:

David Hartwell Questions

1. Seeding and then goats - why will the goats not eat the new plants?

Year 2-4 includes prescribed rotational goat grazing to prevent flowering and seed production of buckthorn or when the plant species is most vulnerable especially in the spring. Even though there will be some grazing of native planted species in years 2-4, those species will persist through grazing (See the following project example from Purdue University in 2021).

Recent 2021 Goat Grazing Study at Purdue University

"Purdue Extension forester Ron Rathfon tested goat grazing as a method to control a continuous stand of mature, dense multiflora rose in the understory of one of the timber stands at the Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center (SIPAC). Results from a five year experiment at Purdue University by Forester Ron Rathfon prove that Even though most plants had their cover reduced by the grazing treatments, herbaceous plant diversity and species richness was not reduced, but remained steady or even increased in one of the grazing treatments. This means that native plant species persisted through the grazing. In fact, with the reduction of the invasive multiflora rose, new growing space and reduced shading allowed new native plant species to grow in some places. The results were an annual, incremental reduction of multiflora rose cover, and an average reduction in cover of 40% across the four grazing treatments after five years of grazing. The timber stand started with between 60 and 70% cover of rose and ended up with 16 to 32% cover. The cover of native plants also was greatly reduced."

2. Signage?

Informational signage will be developed to inform the public about habitat restoration, native plants, and local wildlife. The City of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights are proposing to incorporate educational signage as part of their public outreach efforts for the project.

3. Don't Rusty patch bees live in grasslands?

Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee (RPBB) – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service map indicates that Seidls Lake Park is within the RPBB Low Potential Zone but is adjacent to the RPBB High Potential Zone. The removal and

management of the invasive buckthorn combined with the restoration of native understory and shrub layer plant species will improve the foraging opportunities for RPBB. The Seidls Lake Park habitat improvements are

estimated to support up to two RPBB colonies or 500 to 2,700 individuals.

US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified habitats for the Rusty patched bumble bee; “Rusty patched bumble bees have been observed in a variety of habitats, including prairies, woodlands, marshes, agricultural landscapes and residential parks and gardens, as documented by S.R. Colla and L. Packer in 2008 and later by S.R. Colla and S. Dumeshe in 2010. The rusty patched bumble bee requires areas that support sufficient food, including nectar and pollen from diverse and abundant flowers, as well as undisturbed nesting sites that are in proximity to those floral resources. These bees also require overwintering sites for hibernating queens, as documented by D. Goulson and others in 2015 and Potts and others in 2010.”

4. *Research plots?*

Monitoring progress of the invasive species management will be an important component of the project. Vegetation and wildlife surveys will occur during each summer throughout the Park. The surveys provide a quantitative evaluation of the restoration progress and management needs. An Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP) allows the cities to evaluate the appropriate maintenance and adaptive management needed to maintain the restoration during and after the initial 5 years. Research plots are not proposed as part of this project. Reference plots in Kaposia Park are proposed as part of vegetative monitoring for qualitative evaluation.

5. *Very high cost per acre, especially since the clearing has already been done.*

The clearing is only a part of the project. The project includes five years of vegetative maintenance and monitoring. Which incorporates multiple effective best management practices that have been utilized throughout Minnesota working together as a whole to ensure a high success rate and maintain the work completed for the future once the project is completed.

Mark Holsten

6. *Encourage to CPL Grants?*

The City of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights has successfully secured funding for the in lake and shoreland restoration components lake habitat restoration. The park restoration project does not meet all of the requirements of CPL to secure funding for the entire project. The following are reasons why this project does not meet requirements of a CPL request; the project is proposed for five years, total budget exceeds the CPL funding limits, vegetation and wildlife monitoring cannot be included in a CPL request.

Ron Schara

7. *Recommend CPL Here?*

The City of South Saint Paul and Inver Grove Heights has successfully secured funding for the in lake and shoreland restoration components lake habitat restoration. The park restoration project does not meet all of the requirements of CPL to secure funding for the entire project. The following are reasons why this project does not meet requirements of a CPL request; the project is proposed for five years, total budget exceeds the CPL funding limits, vegetation and wildlife monitoring cannot be included in a CPL request.



Sue Polka, P.E.

Public Works Director/City Engineer

P (651) 554-3214 C (623) 826-1527

City of South St. Paul | 400 Richmond Street E. | South St. Paul, MN 55075

www.southstpaul.org

RESPONSE 19

From: Hoch, Greg (DNR) <greg.hoch@state.mn.us>

Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 8:57 AM

To: Mark Johnson <mark.johnson@isohe.mn.gov>; Joe Pavelko <Joe.Pavelko@isohe.mn.gov>

Cc: Wilder, Kelly (DNR) <kelly.wilder@state.mn.us>

Subject: Roving Crew Follow-up

Good Morning Mark and Joe,

There was a comment from Chair Hartwell on the reviews about an update on the Roving Crew transition from the old funding model to the new consolidated model. Below is an overview of the last year and where we currently stand. If you would like more details on any part of this, please let us know.

Thanks, Greg

Roving Crews status

Prior to transitioning to the consolidated funding model this fiscal year, the Roving Crews were funded as part of the DNR's Grassland and Wetland Enhancement appropriations. Funding for each crew was staggered on three-year intervals involving different appropriations. The previous fiscal year (FY22) marked the last year utilizing the old, staggered funding model. To facilitate the transition to the consolidated funding model, crews that had finished their funding cycle in FY21 were shifted to newer appropriations that had additional years of Roving Crew funding available. This involved shifting Roving Crew funds for Roving Crew funds, on different appropriations. The Roving Crews did not tap into other funds within the appropriations.

As of the start of FY23 on July 1st, all Roving Crews are now funded on the new, consolidated appropriation (ML21 FY22) that funds all Roving Crews independent of the DNR's Enhancement proposals / appropriations. The ML21 FY22 appropriation funds the Roving Crews for one year.

In a previous memo, we stated an intention to submit a second Roving Crew proposal last year. Due to the impact of COVID related delays and the hiring freeze, we did not spend much of the funding appropriated for the relatively new West Central and Northeast Roving Crews. The unspent funding from these two crews and available funding from previous appropriations for the other crews combined provided adequate funding to cover all crews in FY22. This allowed our request to be postponed by one year. FY22 was in essence the transition year between the staggered funding model and the consolidated model. We would like to continue to follow the consolidated model just shifting our previous schedule forward one year.

Remaining enhancement funds

After the transition last fiscal year, we have approximately \$1,855,500 of Roving Crew funds remaining in the Prairie Enhancement appropriations. These funds are primarily from the delays in hiring the West Central Roving Crew. There is approximately \$1,604,600 remaining from the ML20 FY21 Forest Enhancement appropriation that was intended for the NE Roving Crew. These remaining funds are also due to delays in hiring the crew. Lastly, there is approximately \$496,800 of Roving Crew funds left in the Wetland Enhancement appropriations. We say approximately because we still have a couple open encumbrances. However, these numbers are very close.

These remaining funds could present a unique opportunity to conduct some larger than usual projects such as shearing large portions of the brushlands in the northwest that will benefit a range of wildlife species. The DNR has the internal capacity and contractors available to spend these funds.

If the Council is supportive of amending the remaining Roving Crew funding to contracts and supplies in the Enhancement appropriations, DNR will work with Council staff this fall to get these amendments completed.

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like additional details on all or any parts the above, please let us know and we can provide those to Council Staff.

Greg Hoch
Prairie Habitat Supervisor
MN DNR
651-259-5230