

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)

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**Subd: 04i**

**Project Title:** Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) - Phase VI

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 3,475,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured):** \$ 1,205,000

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## Summary:

Protect and restore a connected network of critical habitat in the greater metropolitan area by acquiring fee title and conservation easements on 650 acres and restoring and enhancing 761 acres.

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**Name:** Sarah Strommen

**Sponsoring Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

**City / Township:**

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Result / Activity		Partner	Proposed Project Funding				Proposed Accomplishments						Areas of Focus			
			ENRTF Funds		Other Funds		Total Project Funds Proposed (ENRTF, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	ENRTF		Other Funds		Total Project Acres Completed ENRTF & Other Funds combined)				
			ENRTF Funds Requested	Other State Funding Proposed	Other Non-State Funding Proposed	ENRTF Acres/Miles Proposed		Other Funds Acres/Miles Proposed								
						ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES							
1. Coordinate MeCC Program																
1.1. MeCC Partnership coordination, mapping, and outreach		Led by Minnesota Land Trust	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A			
1.2. MeCC Mapping and database work		Led by DNR	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A			
SUBTOTAL			\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	0	0.00	0	0.00	-	-				
2. Restore & Enhancement Significant Habitat																
2.1. Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat		Friends of the Mississippi River	\$200,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$300,000	158	0	0	0	158		Mississippi - SNA and WMA lands			
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters		Great River Greening	\$400,000	-	\$400,000	\$800,000	123	0.18	147	0.14	270		Mississippi River; Wild & Scenic Rivers; Pilot Knob; Scott Co.; Washington Co.; Urban Core			
2.6. Restore and enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on the Minnesota		MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$100,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$150,000	405	0	0	0	405		MN Valley NWR Units in Hennepin, Scott, and Sibley counties			
2.7. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County		Dakota County	\$136,000	\$0	\$0	\$136,000	75	0	0	0	75		Vermillion River, Cannon River, Marcott Lake, Lake Marion			
SUBTOTAL			\$836,000	\$0	\$550,000	\$1,386,000	761	0.00	147	0.00	908					
3. Acquire Significant Habitat																
						Fee Title	Easement	Fee Title	Easement	Fee Title	Easement	Fee Title	Eaement			
3.1. Critical land protection program		The Trust for Public Land	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	30	-	0.30	-	30	-	0.30	-	60	Savage Fen, Lindstrom, Rum River, St. Croix, Prior Lake
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements.		Minnesota Land Trust	\$400,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$900,000	-	150	-	0.00	-	N/A	-	0.00	150	Rum River, Valley Creek, St. Croix, Cannon River
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.		MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	125	-	0.00	-	125	-	0.00	-	250	MN Valley NWR units in Carver, Scott and/or Sibley Counties
3.5. DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition.		DNR - Fisheries & Wildlife	\$300,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$450,000	35	-	0.60	-	15	-	0.30	-	50	Browns Creek, Vermillion River
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection		Dakota County	\$899,000	\$0	\$1,035,000	\$1,934,000	-	310	-	0.00	-	0	-	0.00	310	Vermillion River, Cannon River, Marcott Lake, Lake Marion
SUBTOTAL			\$2,599,000	\$250,000	\$2,435,000	\$5,284,000	190	460	0.90	0.00	170	0	0.60	0.00	820	
4. Community Conservation Assistance																
4.1. Assist local governments to promote the conservation of natural habitats		DNR - CCA (formally Metro Greenways)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
TOTAL			\$3,475,000	\$250,000	\$2,985,000	\$6,710,000	1,411	0.90	317	0.60	1,728					

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VI (2011-2012)									Date: 11/3/10							
Summary of Proposed Allocations and Accomplishments by Partners									ENRTF Dollars Requested: \$3,475,000							
Partner	Proposed Project Funding								Proposed Accomplishments					Activity	Areas of Focus	
	ENRTF Funds				Other Funds			ENRTF		Other Funds		Total Project Acres Completed (ENRTF & Other Funds combined)				
	Coordination & Mapping	Restoration	Fee Title Acquisition	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Total ENRTF Funds Requested	Other State Funding Proposed	Other Non-State Funding Proposed	Total Project Funds Proposed (ENRTF, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	ENRTF Acres/Miles Proposed	Other Funds Acres/Miles Proposed						
											ACRES		MILES			ACRES
DNR	\$20,000		\$300,000		\$320,000	\$0	\$150,000	\$470,000	35	0.60	15	0.30	50	Mapping and database work and DNR Fish and Wildlife acquisition	Browns Creek, Vermillion River	
Friends of the Mississippi River		\$200,000			\$200,000		\$100,000	\$300,000	158				158	Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat	Mississippi - SNA and WMA lands	
Great River Greening		\$400,000			\$400,000		\$400,000	\$800,000	123	0.18	147	0.14	270	Restoration of lands and waters	Mississippi River; Wild & Scenic Rivers; Pilot Knob; Scott Co.; Washington Co.; Urban Core	
MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.		\$100,000	\$500,000		\$600,000		\$550,000	\$1,150,000	530		125		655	Expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and restore/enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on the Refuge	MN Valley NWR Units in Hennepin, Scott, and Sibley counties	
The Trust for Public Land			\$500,000		\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000	30	0.30	30	0.30	60	Critical land protection (fee acquisition)	Savage Fen, Lindstrom, Rum River, St. Croix, Prior Lake	
Minnesota Land Trust	\$20,000			\$400,000	\$420,000		\$500,000	\$920,000	150				150	MeCC Coordination and protecting habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Rum River, Valley Creek, St. Croix, Cannon River	
Dakota County		\$136,000		\$899,000	\$1,035,000		\$1,035,000	\$2,070,000	385				385	Lakeshore and riparian protection (conservation easements) and restoration	Vermillion River, Cannon River, Marcott Lake, Lake	
	\$40,000	\$836,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,299,000	\$3,475,000	\$250,000	\$2,985,000	\$6,710,000	1,411	1.08	317	0.74	1,728			

## 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VI Overall Summary

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates protection and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This corridor network stretches from the area's urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. This project addresses several recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Specifically, during this sixth phase of the MeCC Partnership, our focus will be on projects that build upon prior investments to enlarge habitat areas and create connections as well as projects that capitalize on urgent and unique opportunities. Our goal is to permanently protect 650 acres through fee title and conservation easement acquisition and to restore and/or enhance 761 acres of habitat. By achieving our goals, we expect the following outcomes:

- Strengthen and protect biodiversity in the region
- Protect and improve water quality of our region's lakes, rivers, and streams
- Protect and enhance habitat for a vast variety of wildlife and rare plant species, including "species in greatest conservation need"

The MeCC Partnership maximizes dollars available for conservation by building upon past efforts and investments, leveraging other private and public resources, and engaging in strategic cooperation. The Partnership has an excellent track record. Since 2003, Metro Corridors partners have protected more than 7,200 acres and restored more than 6,000 acres of priority lands in the greater Twin Cities metro area.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management **Budget:** \$40,000

The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts. DNR Management Information Services (MIS) staff will provide management of and updates to the GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as mapping needs of the partnership.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work (MLT)	June 30, 2013
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly (MLT)	June 30, 2013
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of	June 30, 2013

activities and target audiences to be determined through MeCC evaluation	
4. Maintain current records of accomplishments in the database (DNR)	June 30, 2013

**Activity 2: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat Budget: \$ 836,000**

Restoration and enhancement of critical prairie, forest, and other habitats or major landscape connections. All projects will be within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area and strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique and urgent opportunities. See individual proposals for additional details.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restore and/or enhance 761 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2013

**Activity 3: Acquire Significant Habitat Budget: \$2,599,000**

Acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to protect critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area. Projects will be strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique urgent opportunities. See individual proposals for additional details.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Protect 190 acres of critical habitat through fee title acquisition	June 30, 2013
2. Protect 460 acres through conservation easements	June 30, 2013

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program - Acquisition
MN Land Trust	Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Friends of the Mississippi River	Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Priority Expansion & Restoration of MN Valley NW Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoring our Lands and Waters
DNR Fish and Wildlife	DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database
DNR Community Conservation Assist.	Not part of this funding request
DNR SNA Program	Not part of this funding request
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	No current request

#### B. Timeline Requirements

This project is proposed as two-years of the ongoing Metro Conservation Corridors program. We anticipate work being completed between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013.

#### C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat. Additionally, the MeCC Partnership currently is conducting an evaluation to review past accomplishments, highlight strengths and weaknesses of the Partnership, and provide ideas for future focus and strategy. We anticipate completing this project this year, and results will be incorporated into MeCC's future conservation work.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

*MeCC Overall Budget*

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Staff to manage and coordinate MeCC and manage mapping and database for 2 years. Other partner conservation staff salary and related benefits - please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 428,960
<b>Contracts:</b> Restoration, Professional Services - please see Overall Table B individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 376,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Restoration plant materials and supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 12,640
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Funds to purchase fee title and conservation easements and related transaction expenses. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 2,301,000
<b>Restoration:</b> Restoration supplies and vendors. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 257,100
<b>Travel:</b> Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.	\$ 9,300
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement Fund, signs, parking to ensure sites meet DNR minimum maintenance standards, volunteer event supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 90,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 3,475,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Various non-state sources. See individual proposals for details.	\$ 2,985,000	Pending and Secured
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Bonding and/or Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Funds. See individual proposals for details.	\$ 250,000	Pending
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Volunteer labor, Dakota County. See individual proposals for details.	\$ 175,000	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> MeCC 2009: \$2,049,573 remaining unspent but the majority of this amount is committed to specific projects. This amount also includes partners that are not part of this current request. Dakota County: \$509,965 remaining unspent. Please see individual proposal budgets for additional detail.	\$2,049,573	Unspent but some of this amount is committed
<b>Funding History:</b> MeCC 2005: \$3,260,000; 2007: \$2,435,000; 2008: \$3,150,000; 2009: \$3,375,000; 2010: \$1,800,000	\$ 14,020,000	

**AGENDA ITEM: 08a**

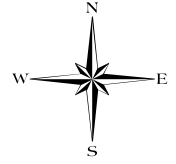
**Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VI**  
**Table B: LCCMR Funding Request - Budget Detail**

Date: 11/8/10  
 ENRTF Requested Dollars: \$3,475,000

Activity	Partners	ENRTF Funding Proposed								Budget Explanation (staff/contractservices, development, equipment, other)
		Staff/contract services	Equipm't/ Supplies	Travel	Restoration	Acquisition		Other	Total	
						Fee	Easement			
1. Coordinate MeCC Program										
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two year project term	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 20,000							\$ 20,000	Staff to manage and coordinate the program for two years
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	DNR MIS	\$ 20,000							\$ 20,000	Staff to manage mapping and database for two years
SUBTOTAL		\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	
2. Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat										
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$ 28,960	\$ 2,640	\$ 1,300	\$ 167,100				\$ 200,000	Staff: Conservation Director, Ecologist/Project Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Stewardship Coordinator. Equipment/Supplies:plants, gloves, weeders, seed collection bags. Travel: Mileage within Minnesota; Restoration: Vendors will be hired to conduct restoration activities.
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 90,000			\$ 5,000	\$ 400,000	Staff/Contracts: Staff ecologists, field crew, volunteer coordinator, and admin (2.5 FTE for 2 years)= \$220,000 and contracts for site prep, prairie installation, etc.= \$80,000; Travel: travel to/from project sites; Restoration: restoration supplies, materials and fees including mulch, plans, seeds, etc.; Other: \$5,000 for volunteer event expenses.
2.6 Oak savanna and prairie restoration on the Minnesota Valley NWR	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$ 90,000	\$ 10,000						\$ 100,000	Contracts: Contracts with private restoration or other businesses to perform prescribed fire operations and invasive tree and other woody species removal. Contract with MCC for herbicide application following the mechanical invasive woody species removal. Supplies: Herbicide for treatment of invasive trees and other woody species.
2.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian restoration	Dakota County	\$ 136,000							\$ 136,000	Contracts: \$36,000 for natural resource specialist to develop and implement natural resource management plans for all easement projects. \$100,000 for contracts to restore 75 acres.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 554,960	\$ 12,640	\$ 6,300	\$ 257,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 836,000	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat										
3.1 Critical Land Protection Program fee title & conservation easement acquisition	The Trust for Public Land	\$ 5,000				\$ 490,000		\$ 5,000	\$ 500,000	Staff/Contracts: DNR professional services related to real estate transaction; Acquisition: funds to purchase 30 acres in fee title. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship; Other: baseline, management plan & initial site development plan.
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 140,000		\$ 3,000			\$ 182,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 400,000	Staff/Contracts: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years. Travel: Mileage and related travel in Minnesota; Acquisition: purchase price of conservation easements and related transaction expenses for 150 acres; Other: \$75,000 for easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.
3.3. Fee acquisition for Mn Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.					\$ 500,000			\$ 500,000	Fee title acquisition of 125 acres for priority expansion of the MN Valley NW Refuge.
3.5. DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition	DNR - Fisheries & Wildlife	\$ 20,000				\$ 275,000		\$ 5,000	\$ 300,000	Staff/contracts: professional services related to real estate transaction including legal services, surveys, negotiations, closings, etc.; Acquisition: acquisition of fee title (permanent easement if fee title not possible) on 35 acres; Other: signs, parking, etc. to ensure sites meet minimum maintenance standards.
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$ 45,000					\$ 854,000		\$ 899,000	Contracts: 0.5 of 1 FTE contracted real estate specialist for two years, including salary and benefits. Acquisition: Funds to acquire conservation easements on 310 acres. Marcott Lake and Lake Marion projects could be fee title acquisition.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 210,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 1,265,000	\$ 1,036,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 2,599,000	
TOTAL										
		\$ 804,960	\$ 12,640	\$ 9,300	\$ 257,100	\$ 1,265,000	\$ 1,036,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 3,475,000	




# Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VI

OVERALL PROPOSED PROJECTS MAP - REVISED



 Metro Conservation Corridors

## Potential Project Locations

-  Conservation Easement
-  Fee Title Acquisition
-  Restoration

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AGENDA ITEM: 08a Miles



# Minnesota Land Trust

*Our land. Our water. Our future.*

*Some things should be forever.*

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## Minnesota Land Trust Organizational Overview

The Minnesota Land Trust preserves Minnesota's natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Minnesota Land Trust has been working with landowners and local communities since 1991 through the following three strategies:

- **PROTECT:** Directly protecting land through conservation easements, land acquisition and effective land management.
- **ASSIST:** Providing agencies, communities and organizations with assistance in planning and delivering on-the-ground conservation in order to expand the State's overall capacity.
- **ENGAGE:** Helping to foster a culture of conservation, to support enhanced conservation legislation and funding, and to ensure the state has highly-skilled, trained professionals.

As a statewide land trust, the Minnesota Land Trust has created a regional structure to deliver its programs effectively at a local level, with offices in Duluth, Ely, Red Wing and St. Paul. The Land Trust was one of first land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and has also been recognized by the Charities Review Council as meeting all of its standards.

The Minnesota Land Trust has provided leadership and coordination for the MeCC Partnership for nearly a year.

## Project Partners

The Minnesota Land Trust is joined in this MeCC proposal by the following state and local government programs and non-profit partners:

Trust for Public Land  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust  
Great River Greening  
DNR Fish and Wildlife  
Dakota County  
DNR Management Information Serv.

Critical Land Protection Program - Acquisition  
Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat  
Priority Expansion & Restoration of MN Valley NW Refuge  
Restoring our Lands and Waters  
DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition  
Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration  
Partnership Mapping and Database

## Project Manager Qualifications

The Minnesota Land Trust employs 10 staff, relies on the skills of nearly 100 dedicated volunteers, and is governed by an active 17-member Board of Directors.

Sarah Strommen serves as the Conservation Director for the Land Trust's central region. Sarah joined the Land Trust staff in October 2005 and is responsible for developing and implementing the Land Trust's programs in the eleven-county greater metropolitan area and the counties to the west and north. Prior to joining the Land Trust, Sarah served as the Policy Director for the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. She also recently served on the State's Clean Water Council and on the City Council for the City of Ramsey, where her duties included being the Council's liaison to the City's Environmental Policy Board and the Lower Rum River WMO. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University. She also was a Fulbright Scholar in Costa Rica, where she investigated sustainable development and bird conservation.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i2.1**

**Project Title:** 2.1 - MeCC 6 - Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 200,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$** 100,000

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**Summary:**

Improve and increase habitat by restoring and enhancing 158 acres of prairie and woodland/forest. We will also reach out to and assist 27 landowners to expand existing projects.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** Friends of the Mississippi River

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington

**City / Township:** Marshan, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Hastings,

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## **2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC6–2.1 Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

### **I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

Friends of the Mississippi River has been conducting enhancement/restoration and permanent land protection activities on some of the most important and highest quality habitat within the core metro and southeastern metro corridors for over ten years. The landowner outreach, restoration and enhancement activities presented in this proposal are designed to build on this earlier work, helping to ensure that previous public investment in this habitat improvement is protected and added to. We have focused our work on particular locations within the designated corridors. As a result, we enjoy a high level of momentum in increasing the size and health of the habitat of these natural areas. Many of the crucial components of these projects are in place. Natural resource management plans have been or are being developed, close relationships have been built with the landowners and partners and our staff know the sites well. With this funding we can continue the habitat restoration in a seamless fashion allowing us to benefit from a project infrastructure that is in place.

We will seek to build on the previous successes by reaching out to other landowners in the metro corridors to present land conservation information and to ascertain the landowner's interest in pursuing restoration and/or permanent land protection, through acquisition of fee title and conservation easements. It is through this outreach that we are able to develop future permanent land protection and habitat restoration projects.

There are three overall goals for this project: One goal is to increase the amount of high quality habitat within designated conservation corridors. Two outcomes of this goal are the restoration of 55-acres of prairie and the restoration of 5-acres of woodland habitat. Specific activities associated with these outcomes include updating management plans, soil preparation including herbicide, burning, and disking, seed/plant installation, followed by mowing, and weed control. A second goal is to enhance the quality of existing habitat areas. A primary outcome is removal of exotic, invasive woody species from 103-acres of existing prairie and woodlands. Activities associated with this outcome include updating management plans, cut/treat invasives and prescribed burning.

A third goal is to develop a list of potential future restoration and acquisition projects within the corridors. Expected outcomes are to increase the number of permanently protected parcels adjacent to existing permanently protected sites and increase the number of acres of high quality habitat. Specific activities include identifying and contacting landowners in proximity to existing projects, meeting with these landowners and sharing natural resource and permanent land protection information.

### **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

#### **Activity 1: Restoration of ecological habitat Budget \$ 200,00**

Restore 55 acres of prairie on former agricultural lands. Specific actions include tree removal, prescribed burning, soil preparation, seeding, herbicide application and mowing. Volunteers will be engaged to assist in seed collection. We will evaluate the effectiveness of these restoration actions by conducting periodic site visits to monitor germination success and the occurrence of exotic invasive plants and by documenting bird species. These restoration actions will take place at the Emrick property, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, the Hastings WMA, and the Gores Pool WMA. Enhance 37 acres of existing prairie by conducting weed control and prescribed burns on three sites. Volunteers will be engaged to assist in weed control. We will evaluate the effectiveness of these burns by conducting periodic monitoring visits to assess native and non-native plants as well as bird species. These sites include Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area, Grey Cloud Dunes SNA and Hastings Sand Coulee SNA.

Enhance and restore 66 acres of forest/woodland by taking actions to control exotic invasive plants and by planting native trees & shrubs. Volunteers may be utilized to remove exotic invasive plants and to install native plants. There are a number of sites where we will conduct woodland restoration activities. We will evaluate the effectiveness of these restoration/enhancement actions by conducting periodic site visits to monitor success of control methods and resprouting/germination of exotic plants and survival rate of installed native plants. We will document use of these specific sites by bird species.

FMR will only utilize LCCMR funding only on private property that is permanently protected through a conservation easement. FMR will also secure a landowner agreement for private land projects. The SNA's and WMA's, upon which FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities, are owned by the State of Minnesota and therefore, presumably, permanently protected.

Contact 27 landowners to discuss the natural resources on their property, provide information on restoration options, permanent land protection options, and solicit their involvement in habitat improvement. FMR will begin to plan habitat restoration activities with interested landowners and will solicit the involvement of other MeCC partners on projects in which the landowner indicates an interest in pursuing permanent protection for their property through fee title acquisition or a conservation easement.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct prairie restoration activities on 55 acres.	6/30/2013
2. Conduct habitat enhancement activities on 37 acres of existing prairie	6/30/2013
3. Conduct restoration and enhancement activities on 66 acres of forest/woodland.	6/30/2013
4. Contact 27 landowners and meet with as many as are interested in doing so. Develop a spreadsheet that reports which landowners were contacted, meetings held, and landowners interested in pursuing restoration and/or protection activities.	6/30/2013

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

The FMR project team consists of the Conservation Director-Tom Lewanski, Ecologist and Project Manager-Karen Schik, Volunteer Coordinator-Sue Rich and Stewardship Coordinator-Karen Solas. Salary and benefits of these staff will be supported by the Trust Fund appropriation.

Trust Fund will be used for restoration activities on these partner's properties: The National Park Service, Macalester College, Minneapolis Park Board, St. Paul Parks, The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, several private landowners and the City of Inver Grove Heights. These entities, along with Dakota County, the Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization, Minneapolis neighborhood associations, watershed districts, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and community volunteers will contribute resources to restoration and enhancement projects from non-Trust Fund sources.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

As presented in this proposal FMR will work to meet the stated outcomes between the July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2013 timeframe.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within the designated corridors for well over a decade. This approach has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, over time, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. As such the restoration and enhancement projects presented in this proposal are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Many times these projects involve restoration and protection components. We feel that the Trust Fund is an important, but not the sole, source of funds for these projects. We are committed to raising the non-Trust

Fund funds required to stay involved in these projects into the future. Most of these projects are situated along the Mississippi River corridor or along important tributaries and thus are of statewide significance. Examples of these larger established projects include the Sand Coulee prairie, the Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area, the Mississippi River gorge, and the Vermillion River corridor.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

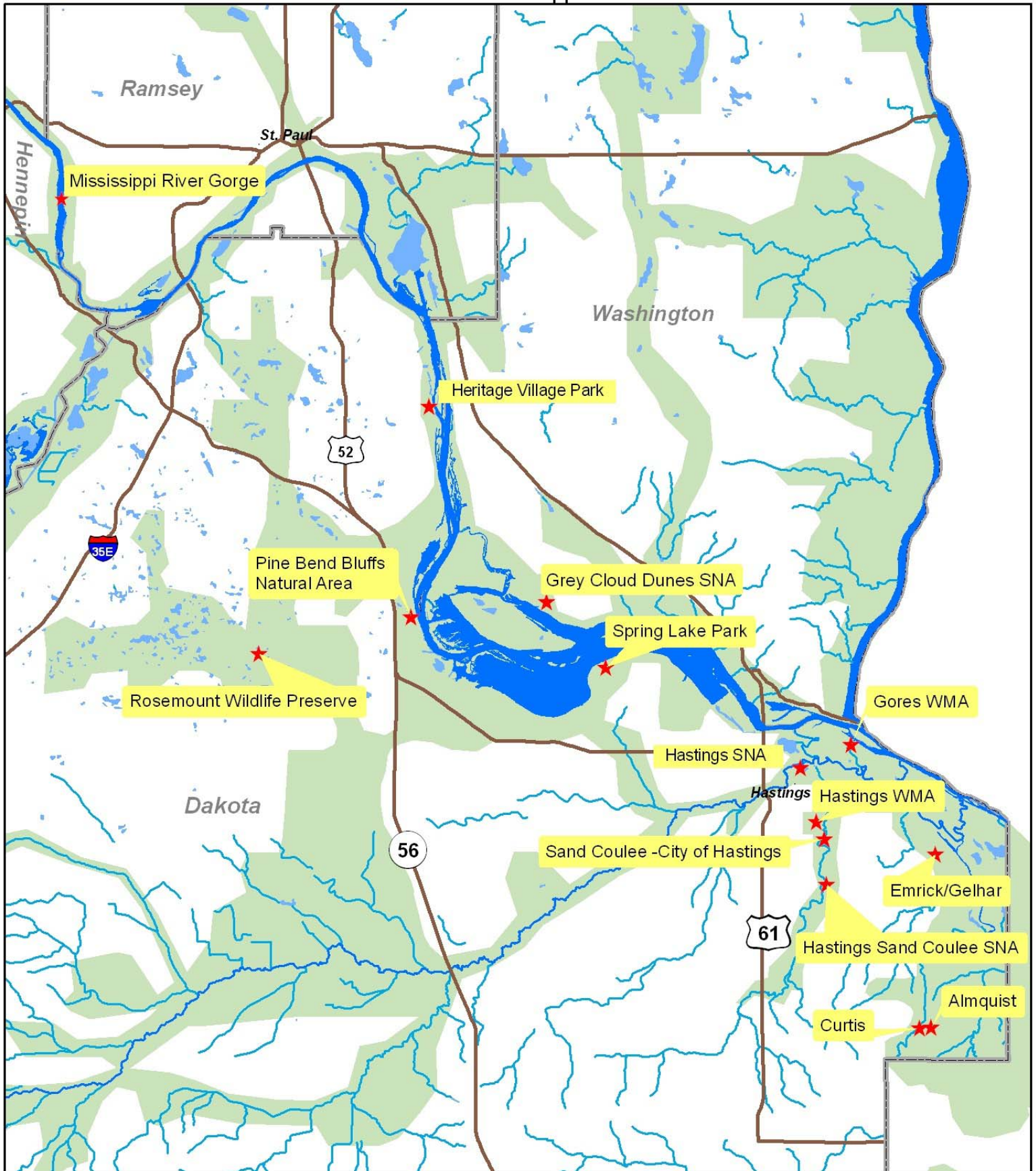
<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b>	\$ -
Conservation Director: Overall project management, assist with evaluation of restoration, and landowner outreach and assistance. .05 FTE. 84% salary, 16% benefits.	\$ 8,300
Ecologist/Program Manager: Develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .13 FTE. 83% Salary, 17% Benefits.	\$ 17,650
Stewardship Coordinator: Plan volunteer events. Train and oversee volunteers. .01FTE. 78% Salary, 22% Benefits.	\$ 1,670
Volunteer Coordinator: Seek, register, & communicate with volunteers. .01FTE. 80% Salary, 20% Benefits.	\$ 1,340
<b>Contracts:</b> Professional/technical. Vendors to provide restoration activities such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)	\$ 167,100
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Gloves, weeders, vinyl seed collection bags	\$ 240
Plant material: Pay for a nursery to germinate and grow plants from locally collected seed. Purchase trees and shrubs.	\$ 2,400
<b>Travel:</b> mileage for traveling to project sites and to partner meetings	\$ 1,300
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	\$ 200,000

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Private landowners \$75,000 (project matching funds), Mississippi River Gorge partners \$20,000 (project matching funds), FMR \$5,000.	\$ 100,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period. These are funds that have been applied for or sought but there is less certainty about them:</b> FMR - \$40,000, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation & the National Park Service \$40,000, City of Inver Grove Heights \$10,000 (project matching funds), \$10,000 Private Landowners(project matching funds). Dakota County.	\$ 100,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> All of MeCC Phase IV- 2008 appropriation is legally allocated. MeCC-Phase V- 2009 appropriation is not legally allocated but has been designated to specific projects.	\$ 90,000	<i>Not legally allocated, but all has been designated to specific projects</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> Amount of ENRTF FMR has received for habitat restoration through Metro Wildlife Corridors 2003 appropriation - \$92,000, 2005 appropriation - \$90,000, 2007 appropriation - \$53,000, 2008 appropriation \$92,000, 2009 appropriation \$90,000.	\$ 417,000	

2011-2012 LCCMR MAIN PROPOSAL  
PROJECT TITLE: MeCC6-2.3  
Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat

Friends of the Mississippi River.



## **PROJECT TITLE: MeCC6–2.3 Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat**

### **Project Manager Qualifications:**

#### Tom Lewanski, Conservation Director

Tom holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Education, and Masters & Doctorate degrees in Public Administration. Tom has over 27 years of experience working in the environmental/conservation field. Since 1998 he has served as FMR's Conservation Director. In that capacity Tom has led the organization's efforts to protect and restore land along the Mississippi River, resulting in the establishment of two new Scientific and Natural Areas in Dakota County and the protection and restoration of hundreds of acres of natural areas. A skilled naturalist, he taught environmental education at the Carpenter Nature Center for ten years. Tom is the lead staff person responsible for FMR's land conservation work.

### **Organization Description:**

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a leading citizen organization working to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. We believe the tremendous ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the river must be carefully tended to ensure that they continue to be shared equally by all citizens and that they endure for future generations. We accomplish these goals through three inter-related programs.

- Land Conservation: We work with public and private landowners to protect, restore and manage important natural areas along the river and its key tributaries.
- Watershed Protection: Working with citizens and local governments, we strive to draw attention to the health of local rivers, lakes and wetlands and bring citizen opinion to bear on decisions that improve water quality.
- River Corridor Stewardship: The Mississippi River cannot protect itself. We engage citizens in a variety of educational, recreational, and volunteer stewardship activities that give them the desire and the understanding to advocate on behalf of the river's public values at City Hall or the State Capitol.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i2.3**

**Project Title:** 2.3 - MeCC 6 - Restoring Our Lands and Waters

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 400,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured):** \$ 120,000

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**Summary:**

We will restore important natural communities through continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, St. Croix Healthy Waters Campaign, collar counties, and urban core; and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

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**Name:** Wiley Buck

**Sponsoring Organization:** Great River Greening

**Address:** 35 W Water St

Saint Paul MN 55107

**Telephone Number:** 651-665-9500

**Email** wbuck@greatrivergreening.org

**Web Ad** www.greatrivergreening.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Western Superior Uplands (212K), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Washington

**City / Township:**

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## 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC6-2.3: Restoring our Lands and Waters

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Much of the remaining natural habitat within the Greater Twin Cities metropolitan area is threatened by conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, development, altered hydrology, and climate change. Restoration and management of these habitats is needed to save Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations, protect rare and declining species, protect our clean water, reconnect habitat corridors, and serve as an avenue to connect residents with their local environment. In the end, long-term support for natural areas and their ongoing protection and management among community members will be the only way to safeguard these treasures through time. Great River Greening's efforts to build that connection through community volunteer events will play a key role in building that link.

Great River Greening will work with an array of local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals – as part of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership – to undertake a diverse array of restoration projects that serve to meet **our project goals** of: 1) reducing habitat fragmentation, 2) enhancing habitat quality, 3) reconnecting habitat corridors, and 4) building connections with local communities. **Our objectives** through this grant are to: 1) restore 121 acres of upland habitat, plus an additional 146 acres using leveraged non-state funds, 2) restore 0.18 mile of shoreland habitat, plus an additional 0.14 mile using leveraged non-state funds, and 3) engage 450 volunteers. We have identified 10 important restoration projects – based on criteria of ecological significance, partner commitment, opportunity, and community importance – that are poised for action during the grant timeline. These specific projects are identified below, and are exemplary of our continued engagement in the Anoka Sandplain, St. Croix Healthy Waters Campaign, collar counties, urban core, and State Wild & Scenic Rivers within the mapped Metro Corridors.

Private lands will be required to have a permanent conservation/scenic easement in effect. Species lists will be based on DNR, DNR/Great River Greening, and USDA Plants Database lists, following local ecotype guidelines. In instances when leveraged match funds exceed our goal, Greening prefers to reinvest, to a level that is justified, in the original project area to augment, improve, and accelerate the restoration of those acres, before enlarging the project boundary to begin restoration of additional acres.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Activity 1: Restoration of Upland Habitats within Corridors

**Budget:** \$ 270,000

We will restore 121 acres, plus an additional 146 acres using leveraged non-state funds (267 total acres) of upland habitat (forests, woodlands, savanna and prairie) through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, prescribed fire, establishment mowing, direct hardwood seeding, and associated activities. Project success will be evaluated by project partners and follow-up activities will be designed to address on-going management needs as they emerge. Restoration plans will be developed for project sites per Trust Fund specifications.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. South Washington Corridor Prairie Restoration Phase II (17ac)	June 2013
2. Battle Creek Regional Park NW Bluffs Savanna Restoration (29 ac)	June 2013
3. Pilot Knob Phase II Establishment and Defragmentation (8 ac)	June 2013
4. DNR Wild & Scenic River (WSR) Easement Restoration: Rum, Cannon, and St. Croix (38 ac)	June 2013
5. Minn Land Trust Rum River Easement Restoration (15 ac)	June 2013
6. NPS St. Croix Wild & Scenic River Easement Restoration (5 ac)	June 2013
7. Pond Dakota Mission Understory Establishment (3 ac)	June 2013
8. Spot Maintenance/Enhancement, Upgrades and Monitoring of 26 existing MeCC projects (10K maximum) (10 ac)	June 2013

Note: *Project-specific* Trust Fund acreages (shown in parentheses) are estimates only and may vary in order to attain the overall goal of 121 acres.

### Activity 2: Restoration of Wetland/Shoreland Habitat within Corridors

**Budget:** \$ 130,000

We will restore 2 acres of wetland habitat and 0.18 mile of shoreline, plus an additional 1 ac and 0.14 mile using leveraged non-state funds (3 ac and 0.32 mile total), through control of invasive species, seeding/planting, and associated activities. Project success will be evaluated by project partners and follow-up activities will be designed to address on-going management needs as they emerge. Restoration plans will be developed for project sites per Trust Fund specifications.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park Shoreland Restoration (0.113 mi)	June 2013
2. Heritage Village Park Wetland & Shoreland Restoration (0.063 mi; 2ac)	June 2013

Note: *Project-specific* Trust Fund acreages and shoreline miles (shown in parentheses) are estimates only, and may vary in order to attain the overall goal of 2 ac and 0.18 mile.

## III. PROJECT STRATEGY

### A. Project Team/Partners

Project partners will include: South Washington Watershed District; City of Inver Grove Heights; Scott County Parks; Scott Watershed Management Organization; Minnesota DNR Wild & Scenic Rivers Program; Minnesota Land Trust; City of Mendota Heights; National Park Service; Ramsey County Parks.

Great River Greening's professional field crew – led by experienced, trained, and licensed personnel – will be undertaking much of this proposed work. Contracts, when needed, will be awarded on a competitive, experience, and performance basis; licensed if required.

## **B. Timeline Requirements**

All projects will require at least a full field season for implementation and follow-up maintenance to ensure restoration activities are a success. Several projects – specifically oak savanna and prairie restorations – will benefit from a full two years of restoration activities, including establishment mowing, invasive species control, and other follow-up activities. Many of these projects will require a modest amount of follow-up establishment and other management action beyond the timeframe of this grant. As appropriate, we envision including a portion (<15K) of the funding needs in a MeCC VII proposal for FY 2014-2015.

## **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

The need and opportunities for restoration in project areas will continue into the foreseeable future, especially in light of climate change, increasing development pressures, and other threats. Great River Greening – as a non-profit conservation organization – is committed to working with our partners into the future to identify financial resources to manage their lands where these investments have been placed. While landowner partners must agree to manage their lands over the long term, where appropriate, and where the need exists, we envision approaching ENRTF to be *one of several* funding streams to that end. ENRTF funding helps to ensure that we actively guide the long term adaptive management of the site.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

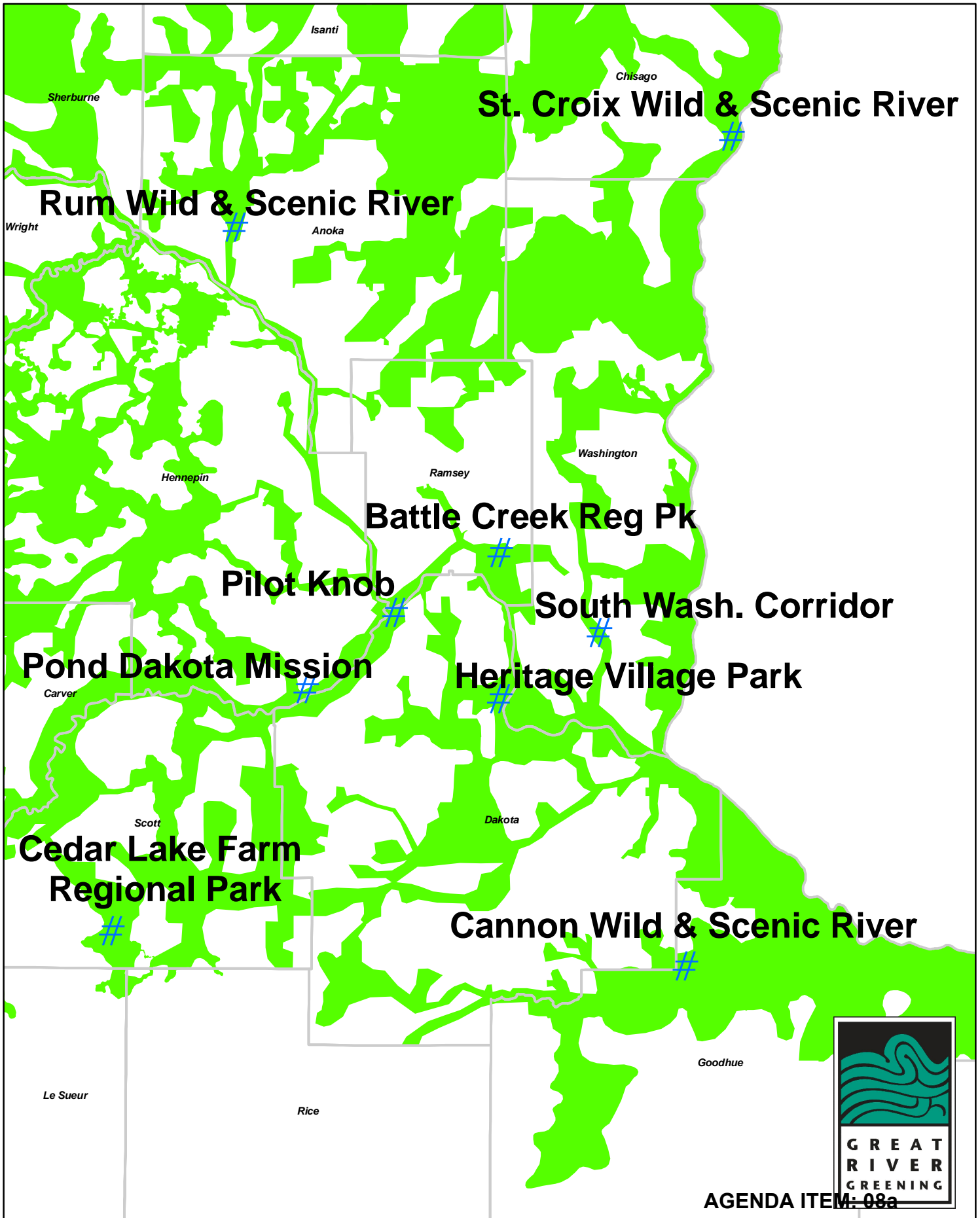
### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> Ecologists, Field Crew, Volunteer Coordinator, Admin staff: 2.5 FTE total. 22% average benefit rate incl. 401k match	\$ 220,000
<b>Contracts:</b> Restoration Contracts: site prep, prairie installation, direct hardwood seeding, boom spraying, tree removal by e.g. Minnesota Native Landscapes, PRI, Applied Ecological Services, Zumbro Valley Forestry, Out Back Nursery, Mike's Tree Service, MCC, farmers and other local partners.	\$ 80,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control blankets; safety supplies (chainsaw PPE \$500 max).	\$ 90,000
<b>Travel:</b> Mileage reimbursement at federal rate	\$ 5,000
<b>Other:</b> Volunteer Event expenses (tents/tables/chairs, portable toilets, overnight security, approved food and beverage) for at least 450 volunteers.	\$ 5,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Scott County WMO; Ramsey County Parks; National Park Service; South Washington Watershed District; City of Inver Grove Heights; City of Mendota Heights; Private landowners with DNR, NPS, or MLT Easements.	\$ 400,000	120K Sec. 280K Pen.
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Miscellaneous site prep, etc. NPS St. Croix River Easements: 5K, hand crew work Heritage Village Park: 20K earthwork, grading	\$ 35,000	25K Sec.
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> 2009 MeCC V (As of 9/1/10)	\$ 105,000	Unspent
<b>Funding History:</b> 2009 Phase V (in progress) - \$155,000 ENRTF; match \$TBD 2008 Phase IV - \$111,000 ENRTF; match \$144K non-state + \$116K other state 2007 Phase III - \$60,000 ENRTF; match •\$90K non-state + \$31K other state 2005 Phase II - \$100,000 ENRTF; match \$202K non-state 2003 Phase I - \$124,000 ENRTF; match >\$100K non-state	\$ 550,000	

# MeCCVI - 2.3 Restoring Our Lands and Waters





## Organization Description

The nonprofit Great River Greening leads and promotes community based restoration of natural areas and open spaces. Our team of experienced ecologists and landscape ecologists bring multiple years' combined experience managing native habitats, conducting natural resource inventories, fundraising for restoration projects on public lands, and engaging over 20,000 volunteers.

We have a regional reputation at all levels of community and government. For example the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has come to us for numerous partnerships: management for the Eagle Creek Aquatic Management Area (AMA) adjacent to private housing, the landowner incentive program for the Franconia – Scandia corridor, and restoration of Afton State Park, to name only a few. We are also a member of the Metro Conservation Corridors, a government-nonprofit collaboration of ten partners that has legislative funding for metro area protection and management.

## Project Highlights

- Flint Hills Resources, Rosemount – This ongoing project is designed to restore and reconstruct prairie, savanna and oak woodland areas on the 700-acre Flint Hills property. It is part of the larger Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area, which has been identified by the DNR County Biological Survey as a site of high statewide biological significance. Greening continues to work with Flint Hills employee and community volunteers to implement the management plan designed by the DNR.
- Mounds Park Bluffs, Saint Paul – This ongoing project is located near culturally significant Native American burial mounds. The Bluffs, which overlook the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul, are also heavily used for their scenic value. The restorative design focuses on reducing erosion without obstructing the view, invasive species abatement and periodic prescribed burns.
- Pilot Knob, Mendota – Overlooking the Minnesota Valley and Fort Snelling, the site is widely recognized for its historical and cultural significance. Greening, in collaboration with Mdewakanton Dakota, City of Mendota and other partners are restoring oak savanna and prairie to this 24-acre site. In a 'top tier' township for SGCN needs and opportunities, this site is also being managed for non-game birds and native snakes.
- Pond-Dakota Mission Park, Bloomington - The site of historic Oak Grove Mission and the 1856 Gideon and Agnes Pond House, this historically important site is situated along and overlooks the Minnesota Valley NWR. Restoration of oak savanna and mesic woodland is occurring at the site over the next two years.

## Project Manager

**Wiley Buck, Restoration Ecologist** (M.S., Wildlife Conservation, University of Minnesota) is responsible for project development and management, particularly for multi-year restoration projects such as Metro Conservation Corridors, a cooperative effort for protection and acquisition in priority areas of the metro, and Bucks and Buckthorn, a youth hunter and ecological education project. He served as Greening's conservation director in 2004 and 2005. Wiley gained his restoration expertise through his experience with McHenry County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Wilderness, and the Minnesota DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program (SNA).



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i2.6/3.3**

**Project Title:** 2.6 / 3.3 - MeCC 6 - Priority Expansion and Restoration MN Valley NW Refuge

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 600,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$** 500,000

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**Summary:**

Acquire 125 priority acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and another 125 acres with other non-state funds. Continue restoring savanna and prairie on 405 Refuge acres.

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**Name:** Deborah Loon

**Sponsoring Organization:** MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

**Address:** 2312 Seabury Ave

Minneapolis MN 55406

**Telephone Number:** 612-801-1935

**Email** DebLoon@comcast.net

**Web Ad** www.mnvalleytrust.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Scott

**City / Township:**

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## 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE: Priority Expansion & Restoration - MN Valley NW Refuge MeCC6-4f3-3**

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will reduce fragmentation, combat habitat loss, protect native plant and animal species, improve water quality of the Minnesota River and increase public access to natural lands through (1) fee title acquisition of 125 high priority acres to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) in the floodplain of the Minnesota River between Chaska and LeSueur and (2) restoration and enhancement of 405 acres of oak savanna and remnant native prairie communities on Refuge units near Jordan and Belle Plaine.

The Refuge expansion units have been prioritized by the USFWS through a public planning process as having strong potential to provide high quality habitat for wildlife and opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. The lands are along the Minnesota River and include river frontage, floodplain and cropland. Following acquisition, the Trust and USFWS will develop a restoration and management plan, then restore and enhance the floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. Cropland will be retired and drain tile broken.

The savanna and native prairie remnants targeted for restoration in this project are recognized as rare ecosystems in the Minnesota State Action Plan, "*Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*" (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 2006). They support several species occurrences documented in the DNR's *Minnesota County Biological Survey Heritage Database*, and are listed as critical habitat types in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District (2004).

This project will provide quality habitat for migrant and resident wildlife species, protect the diversity of native ecosystems, and continue to improve ecosystem connectivity and resilience. It will increase breeding and migratory habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, neotropical migrants, and other species including non-migratory resident species. This project also will improve water quality by retiring and restoring croplands in the Minnesota River Valley to the natural habitats of floodplain forest, wetlands and prairie. And it will expand the public's access to lands in and near the Twin Cities for wildlife-dependent recreational activities, such as birding, photography, hiking, interpretation, hunting and fishing.

The lands acquired will be donated to the USFWS for perpetual management for wildlife and wildlife-dependent recreation as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The lands to be restored and enhanced are already in the ownership of the USFWS.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge **Budget:** \$ 500,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Fee title acquisition of 125 acres for priority expansion of the MN Valley NW Refuge	June 30, 2013

At least 125 acres will be acquired with the grant to expand one or more of the following units of the Refuge – Blakely Unit (Scott County), Jessenland Unit (Sibley County), Rapids Lake Unit

(Carver County), St. Lawrence Unit (Scott County) and San Francisco Unit (Carver County). The expansion lands have been prioritized by the USFWS and the Trust is working with willing landowners. An additional 125 or more acres will be acquired for the Refuge by the Trust using other, non-state funds.

**Activity 2: Restore & Enhance Remnant Oak Savannas and Native Prairie Budget: \$100,000**

Restoration and enhancement work has been designed by the USFWS and will include removal of invasive and non-native species on a 15 acre oak savanna on Long Meadow Lake Unit (Hennepin County, 190 acre oak savanna on Louisville Swamp Unit (Scott County) and a 200 acre mesic prairie on the Jessenland Unit (Sibley County) of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The work will be completed using mechanical, chemical and prescribed fire methods. The Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be contracted when appropriate. Restoration and enhancement of native grassland and oak savanna communities requires multiple treatment phases over several years. Work to be accomplished with this proposal represents several restoration phases, depending on the specific project area.

Outcome	Completion Date
1.Remove and treat non-native and invasive species on 205 acres savanna	June 30, 2013
2.Apply prescribed fire to 405 acres savanna and prairie communities	June 30, 2013

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. will manage and complete this project, with the cooperation and support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The MN Valley Trust is part of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Partnership.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

All activities will begin July 1, 2011 and be completed no later than June 30, 2013.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

The fee title acquisition activities are part of a larger strategy to expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge according to an expansion plan developed by the USFWS. To-date, the Minnesota Valley Trust has acquired 2,134 acres to expand the Refuge. Acquisition of 10,700 additional acres over time will complete the expansion units. The partners will continue working to complete these units and will pursue funding through federal, state and private sources. We will leverage the Minnesota Valley Trust's funds to accomplish this work.

The restoration and enhancement of prairie and oak savanna remnants requires several years (ca. 6 – 20), as persistent invasive and non-native species are treated or removed over time. Work to restore and enhance the lands identified in this project are in the early stages of treatment. This project will further the restoration and enhancement work, but ongoing maintenance and enhancement beyond the scope of this grant will be required. The partners will seek funding for the future phases through a variety of federal, state and private sources.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET - 2 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Contracts:</b> Contracts with Conservation Corps of Minnesota and/or other qualified private restoration organizations to perform prescribed fire operations, herbicide application and mechanical invasive tree and other woody species removal.	\$ 90,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Herbicide for treatment of invasive trees and other woody species after removal to prevent resprouting.	\$ 10,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Fee title acquisition of 250 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Land acquired will be donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.	\$ 500,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 600,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Source of funds is the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.	\$ 550,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>None</i>	\$ -	<i>NA</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> In-kind services will include professional staff services to manage and complete the acquisitions and restoration work by MN Valley Trust and USFWS, but are not estimated here.	\$ -	<i>NA</i>
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> MN Valley Trust has completed Phases I - V of the MeCC projects and has been awarded a 2010 appropriation of \$325,000. Final report on 2009 appropriation of \$225,000 has not yet been filed, but the funds have been spent.	\$575,000	<i>Unspent - 2010 appropriation.</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> Phase I (2003) - \$290,000 ETF and \$1,137,030 other non-state funds Phase II (2005) - \$230,000 ETF and \$428,000 other non-state funds Phase III (2007) - \$210,000 ETF and \$376,473 other non-state funds Phase IV (2008) - \$225,000 ETF and \$198,985 other non-state funds Phase V (2009) - \$225,000 ETF and at least \$225,00 other non-state funds Phase V Supplemental (2010) - \$325,000 ETF and at least \$325,000 other non-state funds <b>TOTALS:</b> \$1,505,000 ETF and at least \$2,487,988 other non-state funds	\$ 1,505,000	

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** Priority Expansion & Restoration - MN Valley NW Refuge MeCC6-4f3-3

**Project Manager Name:** Deborah Loon

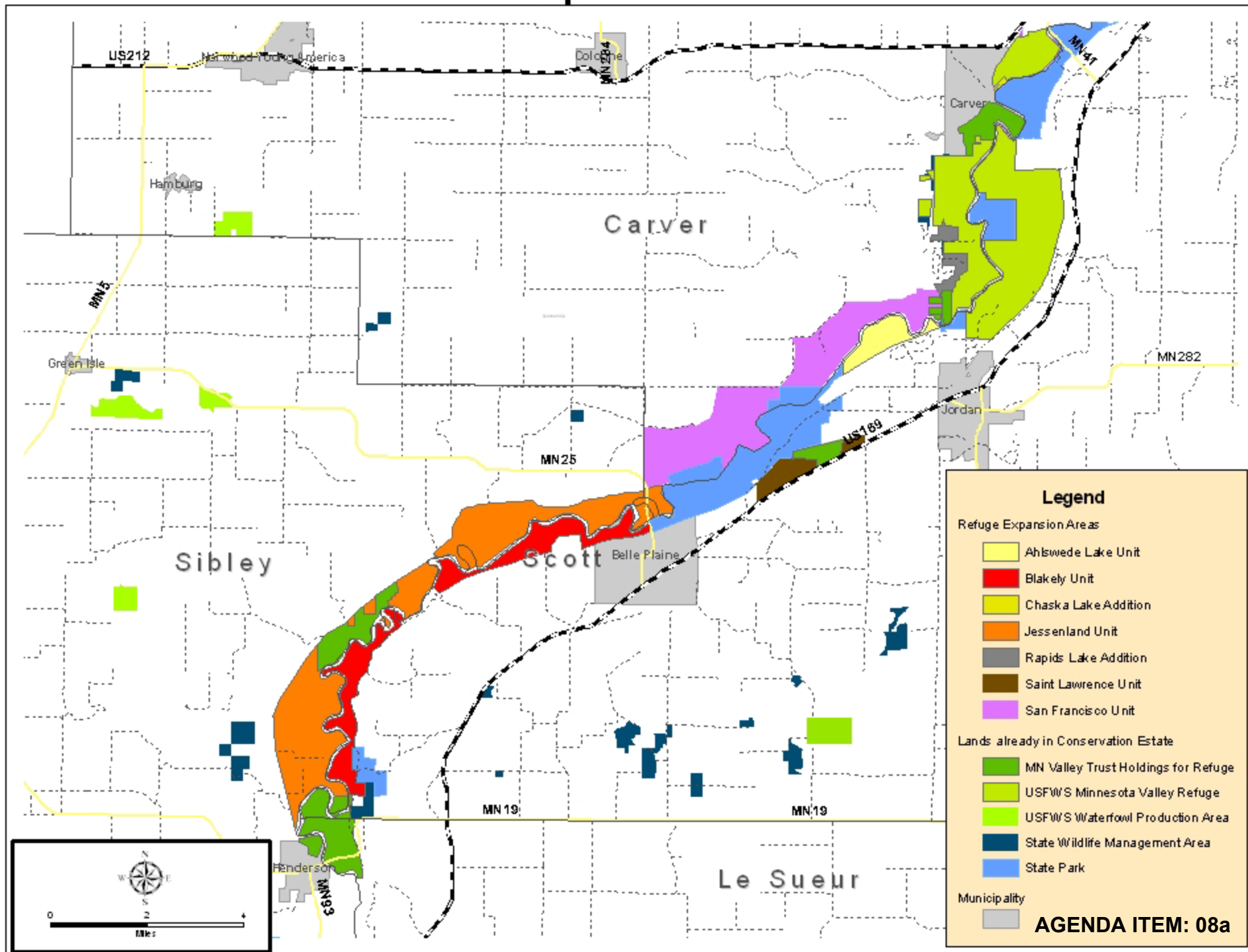
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$500,000

**Final Title Holder(s):** US Fish and Wildlife Service

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Status	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)			
						Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y
1	Blakely Unit Expansion	Fee Title	Scott	125	Outreach and negotiations underway	44°34'40"N	93°52'29"W		
2	Jessenland Unit Expansion	Fee Title	Sibley	125	Outreach and negotiations underway	44°34'28"N	93°54'20"W		
3	St. Lawrence Unit Expansion	Fee Title	Scott	125	Outreach and negotiations underway	44°39'01"N	93°42'13"W		
4	San Francisco Unit Expansion	Fee Title	Carver	125	Outreach underway	44°41'34"N	93°40'50"W		
5	Rapids Lake Unit Expansion	Fee Title	Carver	125	Outreach underway	44°42'38"N	93°38'9"W		
7									
8									
9									
10									

**NOTES:** The Minnesota Valley Trust is working with willing landowners within the expansion units of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge listed above, as prioritized and delineated by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The 125 acres (grant) and 125 acres (non-state match) may be acquired within one of the units noted or in more than one unit. In all cases, the land acquired will add onto existing public lands to expand the Refuge unit(s).

## Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Units



## PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS

### Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The mission and activities of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust is to:

- Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District (2,134 acres have been acquired to expand the Refuge and 1,543 acres have been acquired for Waterfowl Production Areas, as of March 31, 2010).
- Construct an environmental education and visitor center on the Minnesota Valley Refuge (completed in Fall 2007 on the Rapids Lake Unit near Carver and Jordan).
- Complete habitat restoration of lands acquired, following plans developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (work is ongoing).
- Construct new visitor access, education and interpretive facilities on the Minnesota Valley Refuge, including trails and parking lots (work is ongoing).

The Minnesota Valley Trust was established in 2001 to mitigate the impact of the thousands of flights sent over the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from the new north-south runway at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

A 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization, the Minnesota Valley Trust works in cooperation with the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Wetland Management District. All properties acquired and constructed are donated by the Trust to the USFWS.

### Deborah Loon, Project Manager

Deborah Loon has served as the executive director of the Minnesota Valley Trust almost since its inception in 2001. In that role, she is the liaison with the USFWS and is the primary contact with all landowners and local communities. She also provides support to the Trust Board of Directors.

Deb also serves as the executive director of Minnesota Valley Lands, Inc., the subsidiary to the Trust that holds title to the acquired lands and oversees all management and restoration of the lands.

Deb brings extensive experience in project management and organizational leadership for both nonprofit and for-profit organizations. She has a BA in political science from St. Olaf College.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i2.7/3.7**

**Project Title:** 2.7 / 3.7 - MeCC 6 - Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$1,035,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$** 485,000

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**Summary:**

Acquire permanent, riparian easements and develop natural resource management plans on 310 acres within the Vermillion and Cannon river systems and along Marcott Lake and Lake Marion in Dakota County.

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**Name:** Alan Singer

**Sponsoring Organization:** Dakota County

**Address:** 14955 Galaxie Ave

Apple Valley MN 55124

**Telephone Number:** 952-891-7001

**Email** al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us

**Web Ad** www.co.dakota.mn.us

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Dakota

**City / Township:** Multiple

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## **2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC6: Dakota County Lakeshore and Riparian Protection

### **I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The long history of settlement and long-accepted agricultural land use has resulted in the loss, degradation and fragmentation of our natural resource systems. In Dakota County, only 3% of the pre-settlement plant communities remain. Despite, increased public awareness of water quality issues and improvement methods and multi-agency efforts to assist landowners, nearly every river, stream and lake is officially impaired in some fashion. In recent decades, the County has experienced tremendous residential development. That development is attracted to the remaining natural features - especially lakes and rivers. The County has a wealth of high quality soils and a vibrant agricultural economy, and with recently high commodity prices, the pressure to plant corn and soybeans fence row to fence row has never been greater. This combination of large-scale impacts and trends must be approached comprehensively, long-term and collaboratively if we are to maintain and improve our natural resource heritage and its many associated benefits. At the same time, there are tremendous opportunities to proactively and successfully address these challenges. The economic downturn has halted residential development for now and significantly lowered land prices. Sound plans have been developed and adopted which collectively focus on protecting and improving our natural infrastructure. The County has an excellent track record of working effectively with a wide variety of agencies, jurisdictions and organizations and has the capacity to acquire and manage conservation easements and implement increased natural resource stewardship.

The project will acquire an estimated 34 permanent conservation easements, totaling 270 acres from willing landowners, along the Vermillion River and North, Middle and South Creek, South Branch and their tributaries; the Cannon River and its primary tributaries within the County (Dutch, Mud, Chub, Darden and Pine Creeks, and Trout Brook); and acquire permanent easements totaling 40 acres along Marcott Lakes in Inver Grove Heights. The scale and scope of this project is both doable and significant. It encompasses some of the best natural resource features found in the metropolitan region across a combination of urban, suburban and rural landscapes. It takes a precise and sound fiscal and ecological systems approach to conservation while attempting to balance the interests, rights and responsibilities of private landowners with the public's concerns about water, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and climate change.

### **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

**Activity 1:** Acquisition of Conservation Easements

**Budget:** \$ 899,000

The recently completed LCCMR-funded Vermillion River Corridor Plan will provide the basis for land protection within the Vermillion River system. The plan integrates and prioritizes the combined protection and improvement of water quality, wildlife habitat and appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities. A system of established criteria including reducing non-point pollution; improving stream channel, floodplain and wetland functions; ecological quality and size; length of shoreline; proximity to other protected land; landowner commitment to current and future stewardship; cost and leveraged funds; improving appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities; and other considerations will be used to evaluate and rank projects. The easements do not require public access, but projects including public access receive higher scores. In addition, payment for public access easements, similar to the DNR Angler Access Easement Program, will be available to landowners. Easements will be written in a way so as to not preclude public trails at a future date to reflect changes in demographics and local land use.

A similar plan and criteria system is being developed for the north Cannon River system. A citizen Advisory Committee will review and rank projects and forward recommendations to the County Board for approval.

Easement values for projects in cities or with an estimated cost exceeding \$50,000 will be based upon an independent fair market appraisal. Due to the lack of comparables for small riparian easements in the metro region and increased staff and financial efficiency, a formula based on rural agricultural tax assessed value and variably adjusted according to regulatory conditions, floodplain, amount of cultivated land taken out of production, and vegetation types will be used to determine per acre easement value. Updated aerial photography and Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data, official FEMA floodplain boundaries, and site visits will be used to determine the respective acreage components of each easement. These acreages will then be multiplied by the relevant valuation amount to determine the value of each respective component to produce the overall easement value. Payment for public access will be based upon \$5/foot for stream length or lakeshore within the easement.

Environmental assessments will be completed for all projects and all solid waste will have to be removed as a condition of participation. Easements are surveyed by the County Surveyor's Office and the resulting information is used for legal documents and boundary markers. Baseline Property Reports, referenced in the easement deed, are reviewed and signed by the landowner and the County and completed prior to acquisition. All information is entered into a land management data base. As previously adopted by the County Board, the County's standard practice is to monitor each easement on an annual basis. A combination of remotely reviewing the easement using available technology and then scheduling a site visit is used for determining easement compliance. Each written monitoring report is reviewed and signed by the landowner and the County and then entered into the data base. Monitoring and future enforcement, if necessary, is an ongoing County obligation and is budgeted accordingly.

All easements require the completion of a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) jointly developed by the County and the landowner. The NRMP describes the current and preferred habitat and other conditions with recommendations on how to achieve mutual goals. A detailed, three-year work plan, describing priority activities and responsibilities, is also completed as a core element of the NRMP. Due to the two-year time constraint and staff limitations, an estimated 50 percent of the easements will have final NRMPs completed by June 30, 2013 with the remaining 50 percent having preliminary NRMPs. Easement deed language requires completion of the final NRMP within six months of closing and funds are escrowed until the plan is completed.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Permanent protection of estimated 32 properties totaling an estimated 310 acres of high priority natural resource lands	June 30, 2013

**Activity 2: Restoration**

**Budget: \$136,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Final Natural Resource Management Plans and work plans for 150 acres of new easement acquisitions. Preliminary Natural Resource Management Plans for 150 acres for new easement acquisitions.	June 30, 2013
2. Restoration and Enhancement of 75 acres of previously protected areas or early easement acquisitions.	June 30, 2013

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

This proposal will be part of the Metro Conservation Corridor Partnership proposal. Dakota County has used a very collaborative approach to its land conservation efforts over the past seven years. All land acquisition has been done on the basis of willing sellers- most often on a bargain sale basis. The cities of Lakeville, and Hastings, Farmington and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization have contributed funds or in-kind services on past and current projects and are likely to continue those productive partnerships during this project phase. All eleven townships have been very supportive. The Soil and Water Conservation District and the Friends of the Mississippi River have been a critical partner in providing outreach, technical assistance and easement monitoring services. The County has worked very cooperatively with the DNR on a number of land conservation projects from contributing funds for state acquisitions and transferring County lands for a new WMA to jointly managing the Vermillion Highlands complex. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has been a critical partner in facilitating the use of over \$10M of federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) funds to the County for acquiring permanent easements along waterways each year since 2003. Budgeted 2011 FRPP funds are available for conservation corridor projects.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

With the Vermillion River Corridor Plan already in place, completion of model implementation projects, development of selection criteria and the process for project evaluation and selection, project implementation in the Vermillion River watershed can begin with completing previously selected projects after July 1, 2011. Funding will require two years or until June 30, 2013.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

The County will complete an ambitious, comprehensive, long-term approach to land and water conservation vision and strategic implementation plan in early 2011. This plan will integrate acquisition of regional park in-holdings, development of a 200-mile multi-purpose greenway system, and protecting and improving riparian and lakeshore buffers, and natural area and agricultural conservation zones. County staff has preliminarily estimated an additional 15,000 acres will need to be protected and managed to fully achieve a variety of public benefits at an estimated cost of \$45M.

Protection of approximately 2,200 acres through the County's Farmland and Natural Areas Program and FY 2010 and 2011 Outdoor Heritage funding are currently underway. The County purposely withheld the use of project implementation funds from the FY 2009 LCCMR appropriation to the County until the Vermillion Corridor plan was completed. On November 2, 2010, the County Board adopted the process for selecting projects that will utilize the current \$509,965 Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund balance to protect an additional 125 acres and restore 40 acres.

The County Board of Commissioners recently adopted the protection of riparian and lakeshore buffers as one of its top 25 county wide goals for 2011 and has included an additional \$2 million of Environmental Fund balance over the next five years to augment the \$1.3M of remaining Farmland and Natural Areas Program bond funds.

The County will continue to work proactively with landowners and numerous partners to strategically protect the highest quality natural resource lands providing multiple public benefits.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

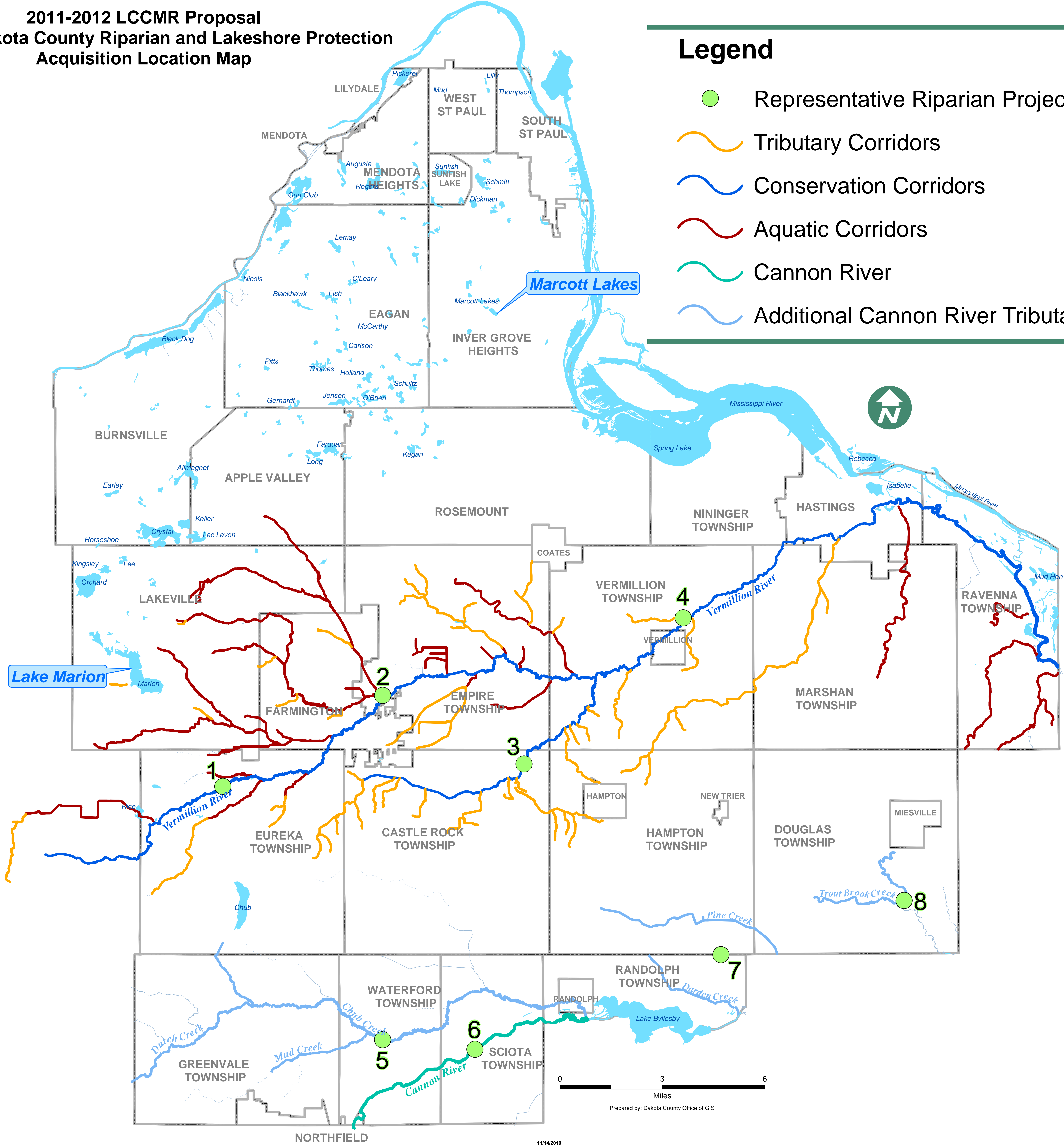
BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b>	
<b>Contracts:</b> 50 percent of a .4 FTE contracted Real Estate Specialist for acquiring riparian easements for two years @ \$22,500/year from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2013. Consultants will be selected on the basis of a County RFP process. Fifty percent of a .4 FTE contracted Natural Resource Specialist for developing and implementing natural resource management plans on all easement projects @	\$ 181,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Not Applicable	\$ -
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> An estimated 30 riparian easements totaling 270 acres and two shoreland easements totaling an estimated 40 acres on Marcott Lakes will be held by Dakota County.	\$ 854,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Not Applicable	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 1,035,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Dakota County (capital and two .5 FTE staff)	\$485,000	Secured
Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization	\$100,000	Pending
Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (estimate based on receiving all of the state allocations during past eight years)	\$250,000	Pending
Landowner Donation (estimate based upon a conservative, five-year track record)	\$200,000	Pending
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> NA	\$0	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Minimally, this includes related County staff-time for Administration, GIS, Survey, County Attorney's Office, Environmental Assessments, and Property Documentation.	\$140,000	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$400,000 from the ENRTF for the "Vermillion River Corridor Acquisition and Restoration in Dakota County" in 2008. In addition, \$149,965 from the 1998 Chub Lake appropriation was transferred to this project in 2008. The \$40,000 planning component will be expended by October 30, 2010.	\$ 509,965	Unspent
<b>Funding History: Environment and Natural Resource Trust Funds</b> Phase I and Phase II of the Farmland and Natural Areas Program in 1998 and 2002	\$293,000	

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal								
Project Title: MeCC 6: Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection								
Project Manager Name: Alan Singer								
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$899,000								
Final Title Holder(s): Dakota County								
#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM- Latitude Longitude)			
1	Lakeshore							
2	A. Marcott Lake	Easement (possible fee)	Dakota	80	44°48'58.355"N	93°4'3.402"W		
3	B. Lake Marion	Easement (possible fee)	Dakota	14	44°39'41.956"N	93°16'47.092"W		
5	<u>River/Stream</u> *							
6	1. Vermillion River Headwaters and western Main Stem	Easement	Dakota	200	44°36'53.022"N	93°13'44.82"W		
7	2. South, Middle, and North Creek and central Main Stem of the Vermillion River	Easement	Dakota	100	44°39'13.485"N	93°8'2.475"W		
9	3. Vermillion River South Branch	Easement	Dakota	200	44°37'27.688"N	93°3'1.348"W		
	4. Eastern Main Stem of the Vermillion River	Easement	Dakota	100	44°41'9.871"N	92°57'18.638"W		
	5. Chub, Dutch, and Mud Creeks	Easement	Dakota	200	44°30'26.843"N	93°8'4.189"W		
	6. Cannon River	Easement	Dakota	40	44°30'12.29"N	93°4'47.368"W		
	7. Pine and Darden Creeks	Easement	Dakota	50	44°32'35.935"N	92°56'1.554"W		
10	8. Trout Brook	Easement	Dakota	40	44°33'56.491"N	92°49'29.346"W		
NOTES: These listed locations are generalized reference points. Acquisition and restoration projects will be funded in multiple locations along these identified rivers and streams.								

2011-2012 LCCMR Proposal  
MeCC 6: Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore Protection  
Acquisition Location Map



Legend

- Representative Riparian Project Locations
- ~ Tributary Corridors
- ~ Conservation Corridors
- ~ Aquatic Corridors
- ~ Cannon River
- ~ Additional Cannon River Tributary Creeks

# **Project Manager Qualifications for Alan Singer**

## **1978 to 1991 Dodge Nature Center Interpretive Naturalist and Program Manager**

- Teaching and facilitating 40,000 student visits and 10,000 adult and family program participants per year
- Supervising ten staff and fifty adult volunteers

## **1991 to 1998 Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Environmental Program Manager**

- Development of first, comprehensive Environmental Policy for the Park Board
- Developing and implementing the master plan and improvements for Cedar Lake Park and Trail and Loring Park
- Development and implementation of a system-wide reduced mowing initiative and off-leash dog exercise area program
- Management of the J.D. Rivers Outdoor Discovery Center and Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
- Management or Involvement in the following LCMR projects:
  - Urban Rangers
  - Multi-use Urban Green Space Project
  - Cedar Lake Trail
  - Longfellow House Interpretive Center

## **1998 to 2003 MN DNR Metro Greenways Coordinator**

- Provided \$1 million in 50:50 matching funds for planning projects involved over 70 partners in 60 cities and towns in the metro region
- Secured and expended \$10M of state funds that leveraged an additional \$17M of non-state funds for land protection and restoration throughout the region
- Project Manager several LCMR-funded Metro Greenways allocations and the Initial Metro Wildlife (now Conservation) Corridors project

## **2003 to Present Dakota County Land Conservation Manager**

- Expended or committed over \$18M of County funds to permanently protect more than 8,700 acres with a value of \$75 million as an outcome of two successive LCMR-funded projects in 1999 and 2001.
- Program Manager for 2008 LCCMR “Vermillion River Corridor Acquisition and Restoration in Dakota County” project to develop comprehensive plan, acquire a minimum of 156 acres and restore 70 acres.

## **Organization Description**

Dakota County is Local Government Unit bordered by the Minnesota, Mississippi and Cannon Rivers with almost the entire Vermillion River located within its boundaries. Nearly 400,000 people live in the county that is comprised of 14 fully developed and rapidly developing suburbs; six small, rural towns; and 13 mostly rural townships.

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)

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**Subd:** 04i3.1

**Project Title:** 3.1 - MeCC 6 - TPL's Critical Land Protection Program

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 500,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured):** \$ 0

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## Summary:

Strategic acquisition of an estimated 30 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.3 miles of shoreline in scientifically evaluated wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

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**Name:** Becca Nash

**Sponsoring Organization:** The Trust for Public Land

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**Address:** 2610 University Ave W, Ste 300

Saint Paul MN 55407

**Telephone Number:** 651-999-5325

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**Email** becca.nash@tpl.org

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**Web Ad** www.tpl.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

**City / Township:**

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# 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VI 2011

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The proposed project includes strategic acquisition of an estimated 30 acres of high quality habitat and approximately 0.3 miles of shoreline in scientifically evaluated wildlife corridors within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. ENRTF dollars will leverage additional funds to approximately double the acres and miles protected with ENRTF dollars alone. An estimated 255,000 acres of high quality natural lands (MNDNR 2003) remain in the seven county metro area and only 32% is currently protected by DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or as regional parks or nature preserves.

The goal of this effort is to protect portions of the remaining high quality land and water habitat that can provide as many benefits as possible. Benefits include: resilience of animal and plant populations (including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need") to climate change by focusing work within migration/connectivity corridors; protection of our lakes, rivers, streams and the quality of our ground water; and access for "close to home" outdoor recreation, study, and quiet enjoyment where nearly 60% of the state's population lives. Land acquisitions also contribute to the state and region's economic vitality by injecting cash into the marketplace, by triggering deed tax revenues to the state, by attracting additional funds from non-state sources, and by providing jobs to the professionals involved in the process including environmental consultants, closers and title insurers, surveyors, appraisers, etc. All lands acquired will be priorities as demonstrated through adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans.

The economic recession has provided some once-in-a-lifetime unique opportunities: landowners previously not interested in selling are now motivated and land prices have fallen so that properties are now available at a fraction of the price in other times. This effort aims to focus on those unique opportunities as well as to continue building on past work accomplished through previous years ENRTF funding.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Strategic acquisition of fee title lands in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area      **Budget:** \$ 500,000

Acquire land in fee title and convey it into public ownership for stewardship and protection. Following is a list of the lands that may be acquired in part with funding from this request. TPL will work with the long-term steward to ensure a restoration and management plan is developed and that funding is identified for long-term stewardship.

### ***Unique/Once-in-a-lifetime Opportunities***

Savage Fen SNA additions: A significant amount of land has become available for acquisition and at possibly half of its pre-economic downturn value. Acquired land would provide protection to existing Scientific and Natural Area lands as well as to currently unprotected sugar maple-basswood forests, seepage meadow, fen, and alkaline seeps and spring—all within the Minnesota River Valley. Acquisition will also entail provision of a multi-use trail through an existing disturbed corridor. Signage will be placed along corridor to educate the public about the unique landforms found here and about the cultural history of the area. Protection is supported through local and regional plans.

Lindstrom Natural Area: In southern Chisago County, TPL is working with the City of Lindstrom and multiple landowners to protect lakeshore and high quality forested lands designated by the DNR as "regionally significant ecological areas." This is the second and last phase of an effort that has been

made possible by the down economy and which includes protection of 5,497 feet of lakeshore and habitat for species in greatest need of conservation such as red shouldered hawk, bald eagle, and Blanding's turtles. Protection is supported in local, regional, and state plans.

Rum River-Boy Scouts: In west-central Anoka County, TPL is working with the landowners and the City of Ramsey to protect a 160+ acre patch of regionally significant ecological lands including river shoreline, wetlands, forests and prairie habitat. Acquisition would provide protection of these resources as well as access to the Wild and Scenic Rum River, which is also a state designated canoe route.

### ***Building on Past Accomplishments***

St. Croix Valley (Franconia- Scandia SNA): TPL is building on its past successful acquisitions with the DNR's Scientific and Natural Areas Program to protect more critical habitat in this important ecological corridor as defined by DNR's Division of Ecological Services. Acquisitions will be targeted toward lands of high biodiversity significance and to sensitive ravines that impact the water quality leading into the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Protection here is supported by local, state, and federal plans.

Pike Lake II: Building on its past successful acquisition of 30 acres for a natural area, TPL is again working with the City of Prior Lake to acquire land to extend this habitat corridor along the shoreline of pristine Pike Lake. Acquisition of this land is critical for protecting wildlife (including nesting bald eagles), for protecting water quality, and for providing the public an opportunity to enjoy nature nearby in this rapidly growing area of the metro.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Approx. 30 acres of high quality habitat and 0.3 miles of shoreline protected through fee title acquisition	6/30/2013

## **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

### **A. Project Team/Partners**

This proposal is part of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, which is an effort among 10 non-profit conservation organizations and public agencies to target limited resources to shared priorities (i.e. within scientifically determined conservation corridors) within the metro area. Further, the Partnership aims to coordinate on provision of a full range of conservation tools and expertise where needed, including fee acquisition, easement acquisition, and restoration & enhancement activities.

In addition to partnering with the core Metro Conservation Corridor organizations, TPL will partner with towns, townships, SWCDs, Watershed Districts, lakeshore associations, citizen groups etc. in order to accomplish the outcomes stated above. TPL will work closely with the private landowner and public agency to which TPL will transfer the land and which will serve as the long-term steward of the land TPL purchases using ENRTF funds. When TPL transfers interests in land to a long-term steward, TPL will donate to the land steward the land value of the ENRTF funds.

### **B. Timeline Requirements**

2 Years, until June 30, 2013.

### **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

This proposal is a component of a larger and longer-term effort of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership, begun in 2003, to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the broader Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, a 16-county area that is expanding with the result of land and water habitat fragmentation, degradation, loss and and permanent conversion to urban uses. MeCC will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET two years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Funds will be used to purchase approximately 30 acres of high quality habitat and 0.3 miles of shoreline in fee title in the greater Twin Cities Metro Area. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship. Please see attached land acquisition list for more details	\$ 490,000
DNR acquisition costs	5,000
Baseline report, management plan, initial site development plan	5,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Various local, federal, and private funds	\$ 250,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Various bonding, and/or Clean Water, Land, and Legacy funds	\$ 250,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b>		
<b>2009 Metro Conservation Corridors (\$380,000 appropriated)</b>	\$ 380,000	<i>Spent</i>
<b>2010 Metro Conservation Corridors (\$890,000 appropriated)</b>	\$ 338,000	<i>Spent</i>
	\$ 552,000	<i>Committed</i>
<b>Funding History:</b>		
2005: \$620,000 ETF + \$1,664,000 other funds	\$ 2,284,000	Spent
2007: \$420,000 ETF + \$2,320,000 other funds	\$ 2,740,000	Spent
2008: \$475,000 ETF + \$2,215,000 other funds	\$ 2,690,000	Spent
2009: \$380,000 ETF + \$992,000 other funds	\$ 1,372,000	Spent

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** TPL's Critical Lands Protection Program

**Project Manager Name:** Becca Nash

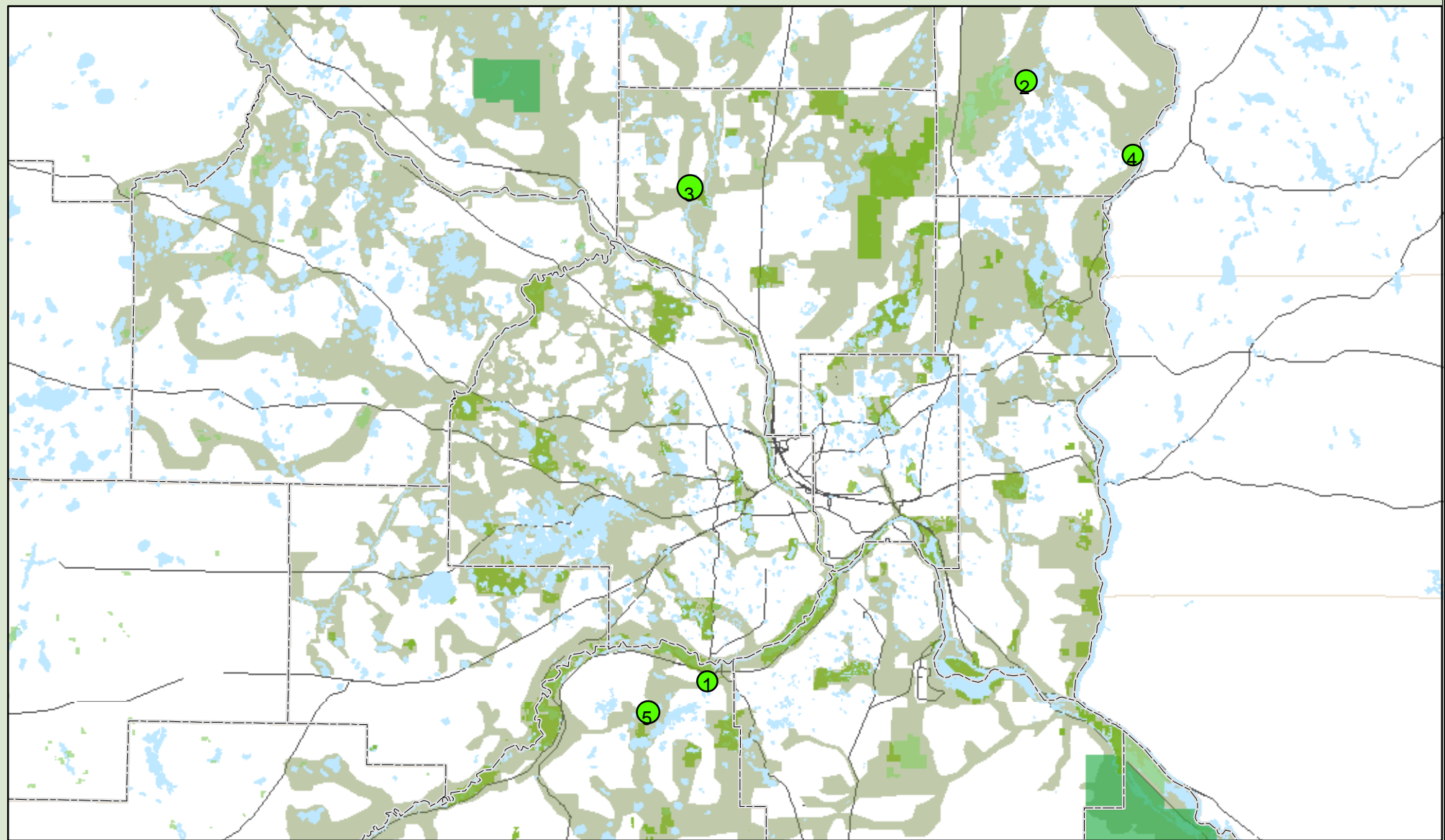
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$500,000

**Final Title Holder(s):** Various, including SNA, City of Lindstrom, City of Ramsey, National Park Service, and the City of Prior Lake

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)				Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y	
1	Savage Fen SNA additions	Fee title	Scott	3.75	44 46'2 N	93 22'6. W			Negotiations with landowner underway
2	Lindstrom Natural Area	Fee title	Chisago	5	45 24'10. N	92 49'56.W			Negotiations with landowners underway
3	Rum River-Boy Scouts	Fee title	Anoka	8	45 17'24. N	93 22'30.W			Potential Project
4	Franconia-Scandia SNA	Fee title	Chisago	7.5	45 20'14. N	92 42'36.W			Potential Project
5	Pike Lake II	Fee title	Scott	6.25	44 45'9. N	93 25'51.W			Potential Project
	Estimated Total			30.5					

### NOTES:

Parcel Name	Final title holder
Savage Fen SNA additions	DNR- SNA
Lindstrom Natural Area	City of Lindstrom
Rum River-Boy Scouts	City of Ramsey
Franconia-Scandia SNA	DNR- SNA
Pike Lake II	City of Prior Lake



## TPL's Critical Land Protection Program- MeCC VI 2011 Focus Areas

### Legend

- County Boundary
- Metro\_Parks
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Scientific and Natural Areas
- NWR\_NFWS
- Metro Conservation Corridors

- (1) Savage Fen SNA Additions
- (2) Lindstrom Natural Area
- (3) Rum River- Boy Scouts
- (4) Franconia Scandia SNA
- (5) Pike Lake II

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0 5 10 20 Miles  
**AGENDA ITEM: 06a**



**Becca Nash**

Becca Nash, Project Manager with The Trust for Public Land, leads conservation real estate and conservation finance work throughout the state of Minnesota. She manages all aspects of real estate transactions including initial research and outreach; negotiating contracts; advocating for and securing financing; and coordinating due diligence work. Prior to her work at TPL, Becca coordinated studies funded by the EPA for the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has a B.S. in biology from the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i3.2**

**Project Title:** 3.2 - MeCC 6 - Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 400,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured):** \$ 0

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**Summary:**

To protect 150 acres of critical habitat in the greater metropolitan area by securing permanent conservation easements and dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management, and enforcement of those easements.

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**Name:** Sarah Strommen

**Sponsoring Organization:** Minnesota Land Trust

**Address:** 2356 University Ave W, Ste 240

Saint Paul MN 55114

**Telephone Number:** 651-647-9590

**Email** sstrommen@mnland.org

**Web Ad** www.mnland.org

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

**City / Township:**

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## 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC 6–3.2 Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect natural and scenic lands with an emphasis on using conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders, and in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in a metropolitan area where escalating land values prohibit fee title acquisition of many priority lands.

Our goal is to permanently protect priority lands that contribute to a regional connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area and help maintain water quality of some of the region's most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust will work to identify tracts of land within the mapped project areas critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland. In particular, we will focus outreach to landowners along three of the region's Wild and Scenic Rivers – the St. Croix, the Rum, and the Cannon – and prioritize protecting high-quality habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, such as common loon, red-shouldered hawk, northern pintail, bobolink, and wood thrush.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust's comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program funded in part through our Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Grant funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

Proposed activities under this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1:** Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements **Budget:** \$400,000

The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors with an emphasis on Wild and Scenic River protection by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing 4-5 permanent conservation easements on 150 acres of land (including documenting property

conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Protect 150 acres by completing 4-5 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2013

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

We anticipate completing the 4-5 conservation easements by June 30, 2013.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

This project is part of the Land Trust's long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Minnesota Land Trust. This focus includes natural habitats for wildlife, fish and plants, lakeshores, rivers and streams, and scenic landscapes accessible or visible to the public. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. The Metropolitan Conservation Corridors is one of the Land Trust's identified critical landscapes – one that addresses the unique conservation challenges that exist in a largely developed area.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

*MeCC6-3.2: Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements*

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years as follows: Conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.75 FTE) and Staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE).	\$ 140,000
<b>Acquisition (Permanent Easements):</b> Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect up to 150 acres of land.	\$ 182,000
<b>Travel:</b> Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.50 per mile and \$300 for meals.	\$ 3,000
<b>Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, &amp; Enforcement Fund:</b> Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$15,000 per easement.	\$ 75,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 400,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> \$500,000 - These other funds represent an estimate of the potential value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project. The value of donated easements is difficult to predict, but we believe we can achieve at least one million dollars in leverage.	\$ 500,000	Pending, dependent upon actual projects completed
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Unknown at this time.	Unknown	
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> While the Land Trust does not itemize the specific value of in-kind services, substantial amounts of unreimbursable staff time and overhead are required to complete land protection projects with ENRTF funding.	Unknown	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> Metro Corridors 2008: No funds remaining - grant completed. Metro Corridors 2009: \$214,000. Metro Corridors 2010: \$322,000	\$ 536,000	Remaining funds are committed to projects
<b>Funding History:</b> Metro Corridors 2005: \$230,000; 2007: \$134,000; 2008: \$225,000; 2009: \$250,000. These values represent past Trust Fund appropriations to prior phases of this project. They do not include donated value of easements or funds from other sources spent on projects completed or expected to be completed under these grants. Outdoor Heritage Fund 2009: Bluffland Prairie Protection (partial overlapping geography): \$500,000; Outdoor Heritage Fund 2010: Valley Creek \$838,000	\$ 839,000	Total includes MeCC funding only

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** MeCC6-3.2: Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

**Project Manager Name:** Sarah Strommen

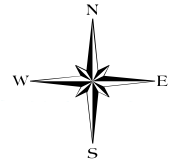
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$400,000

**Final Easement Holder(s):** Minnesota Land Trust

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)				Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y	
1	Rum River	Conservation Easement	Isanti	36			476605	5049201	Potential project
2	Rum River	Conservation Easement	Isanti	65			481789	5049392	Potential project
3	Rum River	Conservation Easement	Isanti	40			479612	5051732	Potential project
4	Elk River	Conservation Easement	Sherburne	128			427213	5035394	Negotiations underway
5	Stickney Lake	Conservation Easement	Sherburne	600			418835	5035544	Negotiations underway
6	Schendel Lake	Conservation Easement	Hennepin	TBD			447080	4994399	Potential project
7	Wood-Rill	Conservation Easement	Hennepin	20			457290	4981950	Potential project
8	Cree Park	Conservation Easement	Washington	10			501414	4975686	Negotiations underway
9	Valley Creek	Conservation Easement	Washington	TBD			517082	4973532	Negotiations underway
10	Wild River	Conservation Easement	Chisago	10			516538	5044459	Potential project
11	Rice Lake	Conservation Easement	Wright	128			437261	4980942	Negotiations underway
12	Oak Lake	Conservation Easement	Carver	106			436427	4977756	Negotiations underway
13	Credit River	Conservation Easement	Scott	22			472326	4951410	Negotiations underway
14	Belle Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	80			515393	4926932	Potential project
15	Bullard Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	60			541896	4930355	Potential project
16	Hay Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	140			535096	4931044	Potential project
17	Vermillion Bottoms	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	500			522675	4943287	Potential project
18	Wacouta Beach	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	16			545940	4933111	Potential project
19	Wells Creek	Conservation Easement	Goodhue	57			547650	4927714	Negotiations underway
<b>NOTES:</b> This is a list of projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are identified and contacted. Some projects on this list will not be completed, while other projects may be completed under prior phases of this program.									

# Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VI

MINNESOTA LAND TRUST POTENTIAL PROJECTS



Stickney Lake

Elk River

Rum River

Rum River

Rum River

Wild River

Schendel Lake

Rice Lake

Wood-Rill

Oak Lake

Cree Park

Valley Creek

Credit River

Vermillion Bottoms

Wacouta Beach

Hay Creek

Belle Creek

Bullard Creek

Wells Creek

0 10 20  
Miles

Metro Conservation Corridors

★ Minnesota Land Trust Potential Projects



AGENDA ITEM 08a



## Minnesota Land Trust

*Our land. Our water. Our future.  
Some things should be forever.*

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### **Minnesota Land Trust Organizational Overview**

The Minnesota Land Trust preserves Minnesota's natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Minnesota Land Trust has been working with landowners and local communities since 1991 through the following three strategies:

- **PROTECT:** Directly protecting land through conservation easements, land acquisition and effective land management.
- **ASSIST:** Providing agencies, communities and organizations with assistance in planning and delivering on-the-ground conservation in order to expand the State's overall capacity.
- **ENGAGE:** Helping to foster a culture of conservation, to support enhanced conservation legislation and funding, and to ensure the state has highly-skilled, trained professionals.

As a statewide land trust, the Minnesota Land Trust has created a regional structure to deliver its programs effectively at a local level, with offices in Duluth, Ely, Red Wing and St. Paul. The Land Trust was one of first land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and has also been recognized by the Charities Review Council as meeting all of its standards.

With a conservation focus on protecting Minnesota's natural and scenic lands—particularly its renowned lakes, rivers and streams—the Land Trust has completed 398 land protection projects, permanently protecting more than 35,000 acres and more than 700,000 feet of shoreline and aquatic resources.

### **Project Manager Qualifications**

The Minnesota Land Trust employs 10 staff, relies on the skills of nearly 100 dedicated volunteers, and is governed by an active 17-member Board of Directors.

Sarah Strommen serves as the Conservation Director for the Land Trust's central region. Sarah joined the Land Trust staff in October 2005 and is responsible for developing and implementing the Land Trust's programs in the eleven-county greater metropolitan area and the counties to the west and north. Prior to joining the Land Trust, Sarah served as the Policy Director for the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. She also recently served on the State's Clean Water Council and on the City Council for the City of Ramsey, where her duties included being the Council's liaison to the City's Environmental Policy Board and the Lower Rum River WMO. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University. She also was a Fulbright Scholar in Costa Rica, where she investigated sustainable development and bird conservation.

### **Other Project Staff**

Nancy Kafka joined the Minnesota Land Trust staff in May 2008. As the Conservation Director for the southern region, she is responsible for overseeing the Land Trust's conservation activities in the Mississippi Blufflands and surrounding areas in southeastern Minnesota as well as in other areas throughout southern Minnesota. Nancy returned to Minnesota after nearly 30 years living and working in New England, most recently as the senior program director in the Parks for People program at the Trust for Public Land's Boston office. Nancy graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Housing.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Subd: 04i3.5**

**Project Title:** 3.5 - MeCC 6 - Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

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**Category:** D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 300,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

**Other Non-State Funds (secured):** \$ 0

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**Summary:**

Projects that face high risk of development, provide angler access, and afford environmental protection of the shoreline - securing fee or easement on approximately 0.6 mile of critical shoreline habitat.

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**Name:** Mike Halverson

**Sponsoring Organization:** DNR

**Address:** 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

Saint Paul MN 55155

**Telephone Number:** 651-259-5209

**Email** mike.halverson@state.mn.us

**Web Ad** http://www.dnr.state.mn.us

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**Location:**

**Region:** Metro

**Ecological Section:** Western Superior Uplands (212K), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

**County Name:** Dakota, Washington

**City / Township:** N/A

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## **2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL**

### **PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 6 – 3.5 – DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition**

**Project Manager:** Mike Halverson  
**Affiliation:** MN DNR – Fish and Wildlife  
**Contact Phone:** 651-259-5209  
**Contact Email:** Mike.Halverson@state.mn.us

#### **I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

This project will focus on habitat linkage projects that have the following characteristics: high risk of development, angler access, environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, and access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. These acquisitions would be from willing landowners for long-term stewardship; final acreage protection as part of this project will ultimately depend on landowner willingness to sell key parcels. Parcels will be acquired as either fee title or angling and management easements, and will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).

Any easements acquired will be trout stream angling and management easements which provide angler access to trout streams that are otherwise not accessible by the public. These easements also provide access for DNR Fisheries crews to implement stream habitat improvement where needed, conduct stream assessments, perform creel surveys, and evaluate stocking efforts.

Trout stream easement widths are typically 132 feet in width, extending 66 feet each direction from the centerline of the stream. Easement values will be determined by using a valuation formula established in MS 84.0272, Subd. 2. The majority of trout stream easements are of high quality habitat and do not require habitat restoration. New management may include in-stream habitat enhancement, shoreline habitat protection, signage and access (parking and stiles).

Additional dollars for monitoring are not needed for parcels acquired through this project. A baseline property report will be prepared for each easement parcel that is acquired, and monitoring will become part of annual management activities. Historically trout streams easements have been informally monitored on a regular basis, both by Fisheries crews and by anglers themselves. Detailed monitoring of individual parcels will now be included in periodic stream surveys and assessments. Acquired easements will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).

DNR incurs a number of one-time costs upon acquisition of a conservation easement, including costs for preparation of a baseline report to document the condition of the property, as well as recurring costs for periodic monitoring of the easement. Costs may vary widely by easement and depend on factors such as size, location or specific easement terms. Fiscal requirements for long-term stewardship of DNR's conservation easements, including an estimate of periodic monitoring costs, will be included in a report to be submitted in February 2011 per the Trust Fund 2008 Work Program for DNR's Conservation Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Program Plan, ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(h).

The DNR is in the process of preparing a 10 year budget analysis of the departments AMA land management needs which will be submitted to the legislature by November 15, 2010 (MN Session Laws 2010, Chap. 36, Art. 14 Sec. 74) . This report will provide us with the detailed information necessary to determine the amount necessary to manage, restore and maintain these units. Once this information is presented we will update this information in the work plan.

This request is driven by a recent report submitted to the DNR entitled "Minnesota's Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan 2008-2033". The planning committee has identified a need to acquire an additional 1,100 miles of AMA lake and stream critical habitat over the next 25 years to provide sustainable populations of fish and other aquatic species and greater opportunities for angling recreation for future generations. The report recommends accomplishing this goal by the year 2032.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Activity 1: Land Acquisition Budget: \$300,000

This project will secure fee title and/or easements on approximately 35 acres, with 0.6 miles of shoreline, and leverage about 15 acres of acquisition through partner funds. Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will both build on the existing shoreline habitat and provide angler access. This request includes \$20,000 for professional services to be used for appraisals, legal fees, surveys, environmental assessments, closings, etc. Approximately \$5,000 will be used to insure that all parcels meet minimum maintenance standards, including but not limited to signage and parking.

Projects may occur anywhere on Browns Creek in Washington County or Vermillion River in Dakota County, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 50 acres and 0.8 miles of critical shoreline habitat.

Additional dollars are not needed for monitoring of new easement parcels. A monitoring program is being developed that will incorporate monitoring as part of a DNR fish population survey and assessment program, which is already in place.

<b>Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Budget:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
	<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 0.6 miles of critical shoreline	6/30/2013

## III. PROJECT STRATEGY

### A. Project Team/Partners

Metropolitan Conservation Corridor partnership, as well as local units of government, fishing groups, landowners, etc.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

This project is part of a long-term acquisition strategy identified in "Minnesota's Aquatic Management area Acquisition Plan 2008-2033". This plan came as a report to DNR – Fish and Wildlife, focusing on "Shoreline Habitat, Angling, and Clean Water For Our Future". Minnesota's AMA Plan is listed as one of the Land Protection Options (2A) in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

An annual monitoring program for existing trout stream easements is currently being developed. Easement monitoring will be incorporated into a fish population survey and assessment program that is already in place. Baseline information and monitoring will be immediately implemented for parcels acquired under this proposal. Habitat improvement is an important component for trout stream management and will be implemented as needed.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### MeCC 6 - 3.5 - DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

#### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET - Two years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> Funds will acquire 0.6 mile of fee title or permanent easement within approximately 35 acres, which will be held by DNR as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).	\$275,000
<b>Professional Services:</b> Legal Fees, survey costs, negotiations, closings, etc. Anticipated to be approximately 7.5% of total acquisition.	\$20,000
<b>Initial Development:</b> Signs, parking, etc.	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

#### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Partner</b> funds and donations will acquire 0.3 miles of permanent easement or fee title on approximately 15 acres, which will be held by DNR	\$150,000	Pending Fundraising, donation of value, partners
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	N/A
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> DNR Fish and Wildlife currently has a balance of \$300,000 from a 2009 ETF allotment that includes this project area. Identified acquisition parcels have completed appraisals, which are currently being reviewed. Offers will then be made.	\$300,000 Remains	Projects being appraised
<b>Funding History:</b> The listed ETF appropriations were specifically for MeCC project areas.	\$330,000 03 ETF \$290,000 05 ETF \$172,000 07 ETF \$400,000 08 ETF \$350,000 09 ETF	Completed Completed Completed Completed \$300,000 Remains

## 2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

**Project Title:** Mike Halverson

**Project Manager Name:** MeCC 6 - 3.5 - DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

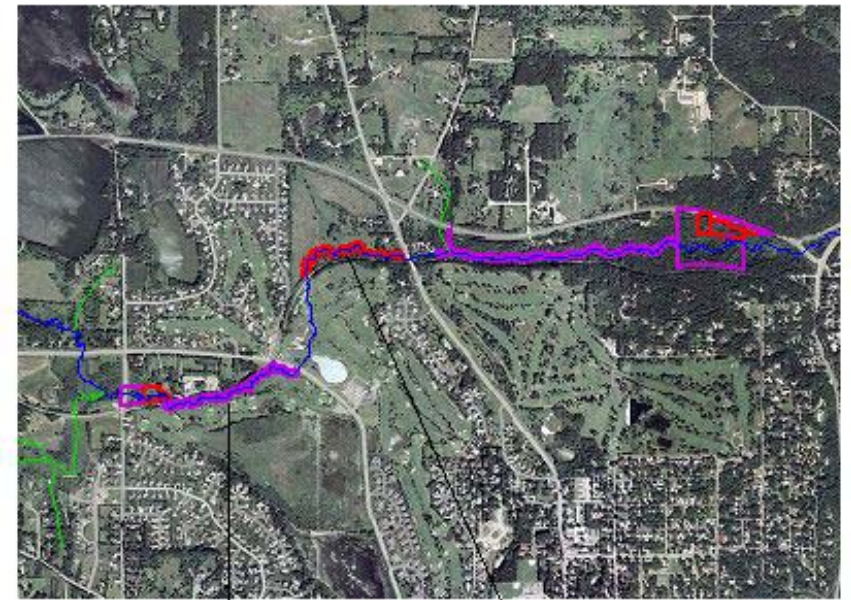
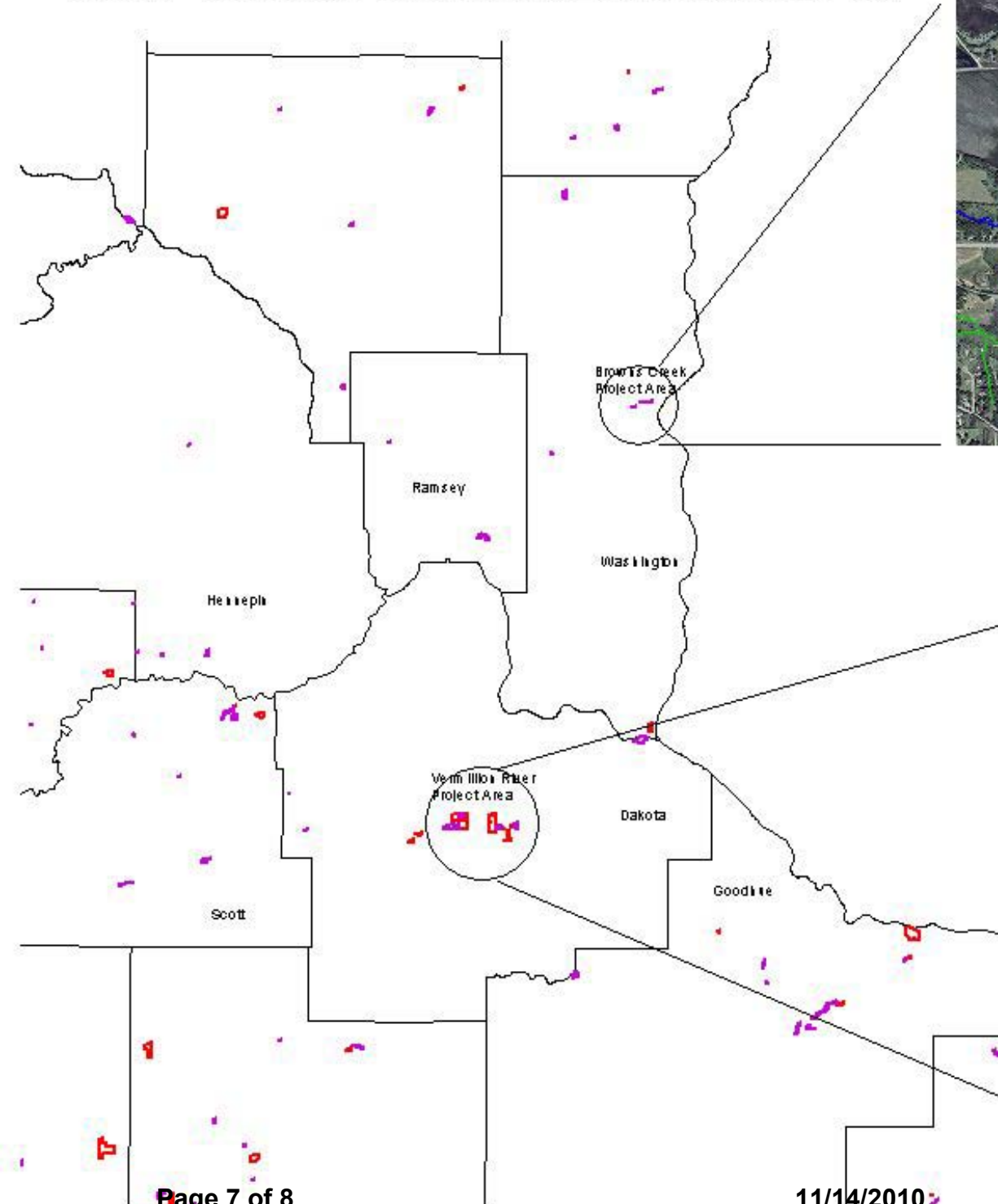
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request:** \$300.00

**Final Title Holder(s):** MN - DNR - Fish & Wildlife

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)				Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y	
1	Vermillion River AMA, P9	Fee Title	Dakota	50	44.6623	-93.0036			Being Processed
2	S. Br. Vermillion R. AMA, P1	Fee Title	Dakota	66	44.6537	-93.0080			Being Appraised
3	S. Br. Vermillion R. AMA, P2	Angling Easement	Dakota	3.4	44.6487	-93.0120			Proposal
4	Browns Cr AMA, P6A	Angling Easement	Washington	1.06	45.0759	-92.8318			Proposal
5	Browns Cr AMA, P6B	Angling Easement	Washington	0.57	45.0757	-92.8324			Proposal
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

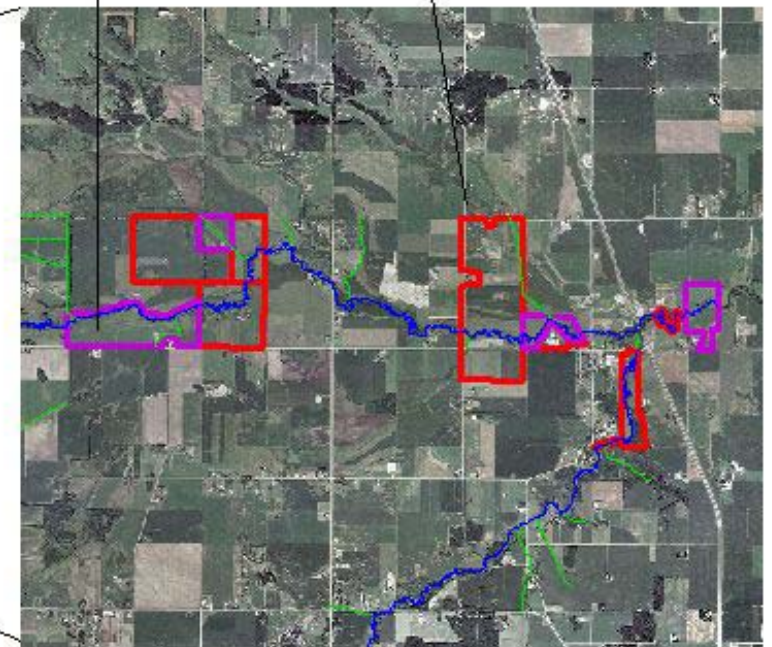
**NOTES:** Vermillion River AMA, P9 will be either Fee title or Angling Easement - preference would be fee title.

# MeCC - DNR Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition 3.5



Existing AMA

AMA Acquisitions



AGENDA ITEM: 08a

Subd. 0413.5

## **AMA Description**

Aquatic management areas (AMAs) may be established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. MS 86A.05 Subd. 14(a)

### **Guiding Principles**

- Conserve critical shoreline habitat for all fish and wildlife species
- Conserve vital fish spawning and rearing areas
- Provide angling and management access corridors on trout and warm-water streams
- Provide non-motorized angler access on lakes and streams
- Preserve examples of healthy shoreline habitats as maps for future restoration of disturbed sites.

### **Project Manager Qualifications**

#### **Mike Halverson, Project Manager**

Mike Halverson is a 33-year employee of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Twelve years were spent doing Fisheries fieldwork in SW Minnesota, eleven years as an Aquatic Plant Management Specialist in the Metro Region, and the past 10 years as statewide Fish & Wildlife Land Acquisition Coordinator.

Mike has a BS degree in Biology from Mankato State University. Accomplishments throughout his career have been centered around aquatic habitat.