

Saint Louis county

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James T. Foldesi, P.E.
Public Works Director/
Highway Engineer

March 17, 2025

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Centennial Office Building 658 Cedar Street St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF), Emerging Issues Account

Dear Commission Members,

In August of 2024, St. Louis County was made aware that the Scandinavian Cemetery, located in Duluth, MN, reported erosion problems along the Lake Superior shoreline that has exposed grave sites. The Scandinavian Cemetery, a private cemetery established in 1881, is located on London Road and is adjacent to the Historic Glensheen Mansion Estate. A cemetely board controls and operates Scandia Cemetely and has no financial means to resolve the erosion issues on its own.

Although St. Louis County has no legal obligation or responsibility over private cemeteries, the County recognizes that the continued exposure of human remains presents an ethical and environmental dilemma that requires action and a permanent solution. With the shoreline soil exposed to Lake Superior weather events and stormwater runoff, erosion and further retreat and degradation of the property will occur which the project site calmot afford. If a 'No Action' alternative is followed, Scandia Cemetery will indefinitely require routine monitoring, collection and housing of human remains, identification research, and notification of family lineage and costs of reinterment.

St. Louis County is requesting \$2,550,000 irI funding from the Emerging Issues Account to complete the design, permitting, easement acquisition, and construction of a permanent concrete retaining wall for the Scandia Cemetery property. The proposed project is critical to permanently stabilize approximately 300 feet of shoreline, repair erosion, discontinue the continual exposure of human remains, and create a resilient solution to counteract the extreme weather events and normal wave action of Lake Superior. This project is also being submitted under the 2026 ENRTF solicitation. If the county is awarded Emerging Issues Account funding for the design, permitting and R/W portion of the project, the project schedule could be accelerated by one year.

Thank you for your consideration.

James T. Foldesi, P.E.

St. Louis County Public Works Director/ Highway Engineer

Attachment A:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Budget

M.L. 2023 Budget Addendum Spreadsheet

Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Rachel Gregg, P.E.

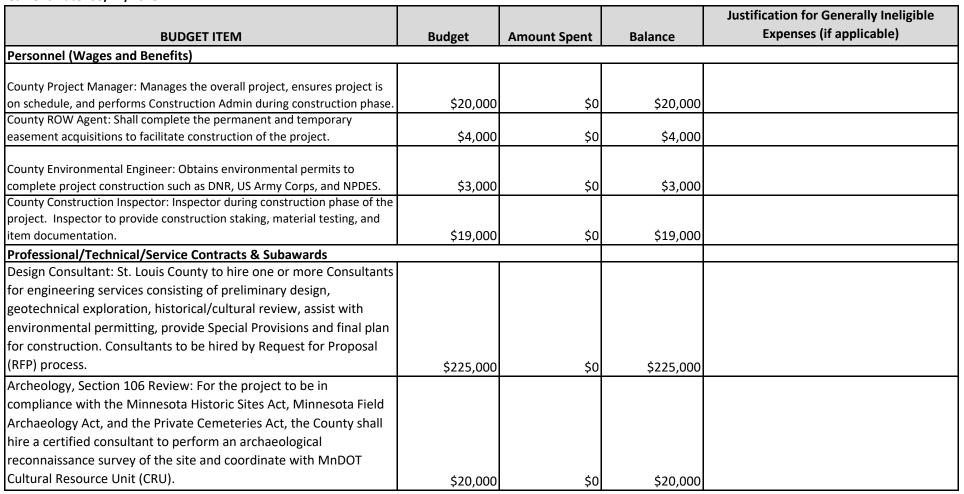
Project Title: Bridge Engineer

Organization: St. Louis County, MN

Project Budget: \$2,550,000

Project Length and Completion Date: Estimating 2 years, Project completion by December 31, 2027

Current Date: 03/17/2025





	\$32,393	\$0	\$32,393	
County will be the designated owner of the proposed structure.	ຽວວ ວຸດວ	ćo	ຽວວ ວຸດວ	
future operation and maintenance needs of the retaining wall. The				
temporary easements to complete the construction and perform				
Other Acquisition: The County will acquire permanent and				
Other	•			
•	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Travel Expenses Outside Minnesota	7-1	·	·	
	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Travel Expenses In Minnesota	70	7.5	+-	
Trinting and Labiltation	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Printing and Publication	70[70	Ψ-	
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Conital Funanditures Quar CF 000	\$0	ŞU	ŞU	
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	ćol	\$0	\$0	
for materials.	\$2,226,607	\$0	\$2,226,607	
percent (20%) contingency for anticipated overruns and/or inflation	4		4	
complete the project. Contractor construction costs to include 20				
own agreements with subcontractors and suppliers as required to				
field construction and completion work. Contractor to have their				
Construction Contractor: St. Louis County to hire a Contractor for				

Attachment B: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Organization Description and Capacity



Organization: St. Louis County, MN

Project Budget: \$2,550,000

Project Length: Estimating 2 years Completion Date: December 31, 2027

St. Louis County Public Works Department will lead the project through preliminary design and construction. Our Public Works Department is very experienced in the work necessary, ensuring the ability to deliver this project successfully and efficiently. The Public Works Department has full-time staff who are trained and fully versed in state and federal project administration, contracting, construction, and closeout requirements.

St. Louis County is fully versed and prepared to properly administer the obligations and requirements of this project. St. Louis County has a demonstrated history of successfully delivering federally funded projects, receiving nearly \$150 million in federal assistance since 2010 and regularly executes these projects of various sizes (< \$100K to \$18 million) and scope. In addition, we regularly act as a regional champion for other counties and cities by providing guidance and assistance with their federal projects.

St. Louis County's 2024 construction program was \$70.3 million, of which \$12.5 million were federally funded projects. The county also manages many projects within the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning area of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC). St. Louis County managed \$8.2 million in federally funded construction projects within the MIC planning area in 2024.