

## LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

### **2007 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2009

**PROJECT TITLE:** (4c.2.1) Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III- Friends of the Mississippi River - Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat.

**Project Manager:** Tom Lewanski

**Affiliation:** Friends of the Mississippi River

**Mailing Address:** 360 North Robert Street, Suite 400

**City / State / Zip :** St. Paul, MN 55101

**Telephone Number:** 651 222-2193 Ext. 12

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**FAX Number:** 651 222-6005

**Web Page address:** [www.fmr.org](http://www.fmr.org)

**Funding Source:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund\

**Legal Citation:** ML 2007, [Chap.30], Sec.[2], Subd.4c (2.1).

**Appropriation Amount:** \$53,000.

### **OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS**

FMR committed to working with both public and private landowners to restore and/or enhance 18 acres of significant habitat using MeCC Phase III funding and an additional 7 acres of significant habitat using other funding for a total of 25 acres. We also committed to leveraging \$20,000 in non-state funding for the project.

In the final analysis of our achievements for this project (MeCC Phase III – 2007 appropriation) FMR was able to conduct restoration activities on 79-acres using Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) dollars. We were able to use the ENRTF funding to leverage an additional \$45,330 in non-state funding with which we were able to conduct restoration/enhancement activities on 95-acres. Furthermore, we were able to leverage additional state funding (\$68,370) to do restoration and enhancement activities on 64-acres.

Specifically, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on the following sites:

- **Sand Coulee Prairie - City of Hastings' property.** We cut and treated shrubs and trees (9-acres), controlled knapweed (3-acres), conducted a prescribed burn (20-acres) and worked with a biology class from the Hastings High School to collect seed and ultimately install the plants germinated from this seed, back in the prairie (1-acre).
- **Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area.** Two prescribed burns took place on prairie (27-acres). We removed brush from bluff prairies

- and other areas (30-acres) and mowed installed prairie (42-acres). We also cut and treated buckthorn and herbaceous weeds (42-acres).
- **Rosemount Wildlife Preserve.** We conducted a prescribed burn on an installed prairie ( 8-acres) and cut and treated buckthorn in the woodland (14-acres).
  - **City of St. Paul Parks.** Exotic brush removal (14-acres).
  - **Hastings Wildlife Management Area.** Cut and treated buckthorn (20-acres).
  - **Hastings River Flats Park.** Mowed an installed prairie (1-acre).
  - **Hastings Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area.** Treated herbaceous weeds (6.5-acres).

### **PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION**

Website description of St. Paul Parks restoration project:

[http://www.fmr.org/news/current/crosby\\_farm\\_restoration-2008-01](http://www.fmr.org/news/current/crosby_farm_restoration-2008-01)

## Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

**Date of Report:** 08/17/09

Trust Fund 2007 Work Program Final Report

**Date of Next Status Report:** 08/01/09

**Date of Work program Approval:** June 5, 2007

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/09

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** (4c.2.1) Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III- Friends of the Mississippi River - Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat.

**Project Manager:** Tom Lewanski

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**Web Page address:** [www.fmr.org](http://www.fmr.org)

**Location:** Within mapped focus area in the counties of Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington .

|   |                                  |                   |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b> | <b>Trust Fund Appropriation:</b> | <b>\$</b>         |
|   | 53,000.                          |                   |
|   | <b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>       | <b>\$ 50,890.</b> |
|   | <b>Equal Balance:</b>            | <b>\$ 2,110.</b>  |

**Legal Citation:** ML 2007, [Chap.30], Sec.[2], Subd.4c (2.1).

### **Appropriation Language:**

*(c) Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase III*

*\$2,500,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements with The Trust for Public Land; Friends of the Mississippi River; Great River Greening; Minnesota Land Trust; Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; Trout Unlimited; and Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the*

*purchase of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated:*

*1) as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07; or*

*2) as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.018, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); 97A.101; 97A.125; 97C.001; and 97C.011.*

*The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title.*

## **II & III FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:**

FMR committed to working with both public and private landowners to restore and/or enhance 18 acres of significant habitat using MWC III funding and an additional 7 acres of significant habitat using other funding for a total of 25 acres. We also committed to leveraging \$20,000 in non-state funding for the project.

In the final analysis of our achievements for this project (MeCC Phase III – 2007 appropriation) FMR was able to conduct restoration activities on 79-acres using LCCMR funding. We were able to use the LCCMR funding to leverage an additional \$45,330 in non-state funding with which we were able to conduct restoration/enhancement activities on 95-acres. Furthermore, we were able to leverage additional state funding (\$68,370) to do restoration and enhancement activities on 64-acres.

Specifically, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on the following seven sites:

- **Sand Coulee Prairie - City of Hastings' property.** We cut and treated shrubs and trees (9-acres), controlled knapweed (3-acres), conducted a prescribed burn (20-acres) and worked with a biology class from the Hastings High School to collect seed and ultimately install the plants germinated from this seed, back in the prairie (1-acre).
- **Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area.** Two prescribed burns took place on prairie (27-acres). We removed brush from bluff prairies and other areas (30-acres) and mowed installed prairie (42-acres). We also cut and treated buckthorn and herbaceous weeds (42-acres).
- **Rosemount Wildlife Preserve.** We conducted a prescribed burn on an installed prairie ( 8-acres) and cut and treated buckthorn in the woodland (14-acres).
- **City of St. Paul Parks.** Exotic brush removal (14-acres).
- **Hastings Wildlife Management Area.** Cut and treat buckthorn (20-acres).
- **Hastings River Flats Park.** Mowed an installed prairie (1-acre).
- **Hastings Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area.** Treated herbaceous weeds (6.5-acres).

#### IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

**Result 1:** N/A (see Overall Work Program Summary)

**Result 2:** Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat:

**Final Report Summary 6/30/2009:**

**Description:** During the timeframe of this project (MeCC Phase III – 2007 appropriation) FMR was able to conduct restoration activities on 79-acres using LCCMR funding. We were able to use the LCCMR funding to leverage an additional \$45,330 in non-state funding with which we were able to conduct restoration/enhancement activities on 95-acres. Furthermore, we were able to leverage additional state funding (\$68,370) to do restoration and enhancement activities on 64-acres. The total number of acres upon which we conducted restoration and enhancement activities was 238.

Specifically, FMR conducted restoration and enhancement activities on the following sites:

- **Sand Coulee Prairie -City of Hastings' property.** We cut and treated shrubs and trees (9-acres), controlled knapweed (3-acres), conducted a prescribed burn (20-acres) and worked with a biology class from the Hastings High School to collect seed and ultimately install the plants germinated from this seed, back in the prairie (1-acre).  
The Sand Coulee Prairie is the largest remaining native prairie in Dakota County and one of the highest quality prairies remaining in the metro area. There have been thirteen rare species documented on this prairie. Over the last several years, we have partnered with a field biology class from the Hastings High School to improve the ecological health of the City's portion of the prairie. We work with the students to collect prairie seed from the site. During this phase of the project, a local nursery, The Vagary, donated their expertise, materials, and greenhouse space to germinate the seed and to grow the young plants. The high school students then returned to install the plants back to the site.
- **Hastings Sand Coulee Scientific and Natural Area.** Treated herbaceous weeds (6.5-acres).
- **Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area.** Two prescribed burns took place on prairie (27-acres). We removed brush from bluff prairies and other areas (30-acres) and mowed installed prairie (42-acres). We also cut and treated buckthorn and herbaceous weeds (42-acres).
- **Rosemount Wildlife Preserve.** We conducted a prescribed burn on an installed prairie ( 8-acres) and cut and treated buckthorn in the woodland (14-acres).
- **City of St. Paul Parks.** Exotic brush removal (14-acres).
- **Hastings Wildlife Management Area.** Cut and treat buckthorn (20-acres).
- **Hastings River Flats Park.** Mow an installed prairie (1-acre).

With this final report, we are asking for a change to the budget. We are seeking to move some funding between budget categories. Attachment A has been modified to reflect this budget change. In the final analysis, we did not use the \$2000 allocated to plant material in the Other direct operating cost line item.

**Summary Budget Information for Result 2:** Trust Fund Budget: \$ 53,000.  
Amount Spent: \$ 50,890.  
Balance: \$ 2,110.

| Deliverable          | Completion Date | Budget   | Status    |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. 25 acres restored | 6/30/2009       | \$53,000 | Completed |

**Final Completion Date:** 6/30/2009

**V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET (FINAL REVISED):**

**Staff or Contract Services:** \$52,734

**Equipment:**

**Development:** \$

**Restoration:** \$

**Other: travel:** \$266

**Acquisition, including easements:** \$

**TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:** \$ 53,000\*

(\*Staff or contract services include both staff expenses and contractor fees for restoration activities. Restoration category includes plant material expenses.)

**Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500:** N/A

**VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:**

**A. Project Partners:** FMR partnered with the following entities to conduct the restoration & enhancement activities presented in this report:

| Partner funds             | Site                         | amount                |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>nonstate</b>           |                              |                       |
| FMR/Malcolm Trust account | Pine Bend Bluffs SNA         | \$7,074.18            |
| Hastings High School      | Sand Coulee-City of Hastings | \$11,000.00           |
| St. Paul Parks            | Crosby Park                  | (in-kind) \$16,056.00 |
| The Vagary                | Sand Coulee-City of Hastings | (in-kind) \$1,200.00  |

|  |   |              |
|--|---|--------------|
| Capital Region Watershed District                | Crosby Park                                     | \$10,000.00  |
| <b>Subtotal -nonstate other state funds used</b> | -   | \$45,330.18  |
| DNR Remediation Grant                            | Hastings Sand Coulee SNA & Pine Bend Bluffs SNA | \$68,370.65  |
| <b>Total leveraged funds</b>                     |   | \$113,700.83 |

**C. Past Spending:** Metro Wildlife Corridors I & II - \$182,000

**D. Time:** 2 years

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** Metro Corridors will periodically distribute information about the program through the widely broadcasted emails to people on the Embrace Open Space (EOS) database, through the EOS quarterly meetings and jointly held county meetings, and on the MeCC website. FMR will also highlight projects on its website, through local media, through its monthly electronic newsletter, and through its periodic print newsletter.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1st and August 1<sup>st</sup> each year, starting with February 1, 2008. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2009 as requested by the LCCMR.

| Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2007 Projects   |                             |                           |                            |                           |                       |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase III-Friends of the Mississippi River (2.1) |                             |                           |                            |                           |                       |
| Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski  |                             |                           |                            |                           |                       |
| Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 53,000   |                             |                           |                            |                           |                       |
| 1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet        |                             |                           |                            |                           |                       |
| 2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable  |                             |                           |                            |                           |                       |
| 2007 Trust Fund Budget  | <u>Result 2<br/>Budget:</u> | Amount Spent<br>(6/30/08) | Amount Spent<br>(12/31/08) | Amount Spent<br>(6/30/09) | Balance<br>(12/31/08) |
| <b>BUDGET ITEM</b>  | Restoration                 |                           |                            |                           |                       |
| <b>PERSONNEL: wages and benefits</b>  | \$ 8,859                    | \$ -                      | \$ 4,057                   | \$ 4,693                  | \$ 110                |
| <b>Contracts</b>  |                             |                           |                            |                           | \$ -                  |
| Professional/technical (with whom?, for what?)  | \$ 41,875                   | \$ 15,260                 | \$ 7,931                   | \$ 18,684                 | \$ 0                  |
| Other direct operating costs (plant material)   | \$ 2,000                    | \$ -                      |                            |                           | \$ 2,000              |
| Travel expenses in Minnesota  | \$ 266                      | \$ -                      | \$ 68                      | \$ 198                    | \$ 0                  |
| <b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 53,000</b>            | <b>\$ 15,260</b>          | <b>\$ 12,055</b>           | <b>\$ 23,575</b>          | <b>\$ 2,110</b>       |