

2009 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2011

PROJECT TITLE: Vermillion River Corridor Acquisition and Restoration in Dakota County
PROJECT MANAGER: Alan Singer
AFFILIATION: Dakota County
MAILING ADDRESS: 14955 Galaxie Avenue
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Apple Valley MN 55124
PHONE: 952-891-7001
E-MAIL: al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us
WEBSITE: www.co.dakota.mn.us
FUNDING SOURCES: 2008 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (\$400,000)
Transfer of M.L.1999, Chp. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13(m) Balance:
(\$149,965)
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(b).

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$549,965

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Vermillion River, a designated trout stream, flows through four cities and five rural townships starting in Scott County and running through Dakota County. The existing watershed plan, like most other comparable plans, identified and addressed water quality issues, but recommended and required that management efforts do not include corridor-related wildlife habitat protection and restoration, or recreational use and conflicts.

The new Vermillion River Corridor Plan

(http://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=67) developed with these funds establishes a vision and philosophy for the corridor along the main stem and primary tributaries of the Vermillion River from New Market Township in Scott County to Vermillion Falls in Hastings. It is based on integrating multiple benefits: environmental (water quality and upland habitat), social (recreation), and economic (sustainable high-quality places to live and work). The plan creates a foundation for coordinating and prioritizing funding, implementation and management. The plan also includes the "Vermillion River Corridor Handbook" <http://www.improvethevermillionriver.org/>, a searchable, online Best Management Practices tool intended for use by a broad audience. The tool includes practices indexed by primary benefits (water quality, habitat, and recreation) and by the predominant landscape type of interest to the user (urban, rural, and developing). Information on and links to potential funding sources and technical information is included. The plan, process, and products were designed to be replicable.

The corridor plan also creates the framework for initiating a comprehensive riparian buffers initiative throughout Dakota County. An 800-point criteria system that includes water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, financial, and other considerations was developed to evaluate and select future land protection projects. An innovative system for determining financial value for corridor buffer easements based on land cover/use types was developed.

The plan and resulting selection system resulted in the acquisition of a 193-acre permanent conservation easement that protects the headwaters of South Branch of the Vermillion River, a very high quality restored prairie, and a network of trails open to the public.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

As the project transitioned from planning to implementation, information has been shared with the general public through various venues and media forms:

- New website for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization launched in 2010 and contains information on the Corridor Plan project as well as the Vermillion River Corridor Handbook online best management practices tool.
- Dakota County Update articles in the monthly newsletters for the Dakota County Board of Commissioners.
- Dakota County environmental listserv: draft plan open house information.
- News releases: project updates and information on the draft plan open house resulting in coverage in the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press, as well as other local papers.
- Project updates were provided to the Dakota County Board, Dakota County Planning Commission, Dakota County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Dakota County Township Officers Association, Vermillion River Watershed (VRW) Joint Powers Organization, Farmland and Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee, VRW Planning Commission and VRW Technical Advisory Group.
- Draft plan overviews were provided at the Dakota County Board of Commissioners meetings and project overviews were provided to the Farmland and Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee, County Planning Commission, Vermillion River Watershed Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Group during the draft plan review in 2010.
- Draft plan presentations at local government meetings in all corridor communities: the cities of Elko-New Market, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville, and Vermillion; and the townships of Castle Rock, Empire, Eureka, Marshan, New Market, and Vermilion.
- Open house information posted on the Friends of the Mississippi River website and distributed through their listserv.
- 3,000+ Workshop III invitation postcards sent to landowners within 300 feet of the river in Scott and Dakota counties.
- Workshop information posted on the Friends of the Mississippi River website and distributed through their listserv.
- Project overview provided at the Dakota County Board of Commissioners Land Conservation Vision workshop on March 16, 2010.
- Project information was provided to visitors at the Dakota County Fair.
- A project overview was presented at the Land Conservation and Water Quality Summit held at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on September 24, 2009, and at the annual state Soil and Water Conservation District Conference held in Duluth on December 7, 2009.
- The plan received a National Association of Counties Award in 2011 and will be presented during the annual meeting of the American Planners Association in Minnesota on September 29, 2011.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: September 28, 2011
Date of Next Status Report: Final Report
Date of Work Program Approval: June 10, 2008
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Vermillion River Corridor Acquisition and Restoration in Dakota County

Project Manager: Alan M. Singer
Affiliation: Dakota County
Mailing Address: 14955 Galaxie Avenue
City / State / Zip: Apple Valley, MN 55124
Telephone Number: 952-891-7001
E-mail Address: al.singer@co.dakota.mn.us
FAX Number: 952-891-7031
Web Page address: www.co.dakota.mn.us

Location: Vermillion River Watershed, Dakota County, Minnesota

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	2008 Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$	400,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	400,000
	Equal Balance:	\$	0

Transfer of M.L.1999, Chp. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13(m) Balance:	\$	149,965
Minus Amount Spent:	\$	149,965
Equal Balance:	\$	0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2008, Chp. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(b).

Appropriation Language:

\$400,000 is from the trust fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for an agreement with Dakota County to develop and implement a comprehensive and integrated water quality, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreational corridor plan in the Vermillion River watershed through easement and fee title acquisition and restoration. At least 90 percent of this appropriation must be spent on the implementation of the comprehensive plan. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2011, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program. On January 2, 2009, the unobligated balance of the appropriation for Dakota County wildlife habitat acquisition and development in Laws 1999, chapter 231, section 16, subdivision 13, paragraph (m), is transferred and added to this appropriation.

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Vermillion River, a designated trout stream, flows through four cities and five rural townships starting in Scott County and running through Dakota County. The existing watershed plan, like most other comparable plans, identified and addressed water quality issues, but recommended and required that management efforts do not include corridor-related wildlife habitat protection and restoration, or recreational use and conflicts.

The new Vermillion River Corridor Plan

(http://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=67) developed with these funds establishes a vision and philosophy for the corridor along the main stem and primary tributaries of the Vermillion River from New Market Township in Scott County to Vermillion Falls in Hastings. It is based on integrating multiple benefits: environmental (water quality and upland habitat), social (recreation), and economic (sustainable high-quality places to live and work). The plan creates a foundation for coordinating and prioritizing funding, implementation and management. The plan also includes the "Vermillion River Corridor Handbook" <http://www.improvethevermillionriver.org/>, a searchable, online Best Management Practices tool intended for use by a broad audience. The tool includes practices indexed by primary benefits (water quality, habitat, and recreation) and by the predominant landscape type of interest to the user (urban, rural, and developing). Information on and links to potential funding sources and technical information is included. The plan, process, and products were designed to be replicable.

The corridor plan also creates the framework for initiating a comprehensive riparian buffers initiative throughout Dakota County. An 800-point criteria system that includes water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, financial, and other considerations was developed to evaluate and select future land protection projects. An innovative system for determining financial value for corridor buffer easements based on land cover/use types was developed.

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT 1: Develop Comprehensive Corridor Protection and Use Plan

Dakota County will prepare a GIS-based Vermillion River Corridor Natural Resource Protection and Use Plan that incorporates:

- A wide variety of updated data floodplain, demographics, land use, etc.
- Jurisdictional and regulatory rules and responsibilities
- Existing and often overlapping plans and programs involving water quality, land protection, stream restoration, riparian wildlife habitat, and recreation

This plan will provide more strategic and effective direction for current and future funding and implementation of on-the ground projects within a green infrastructure framework of non-traditional funding and partnerships.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	Trust Fund Budget:	\$40,000
	Amount Spent:	<u>\$40,000</u>
	Balance:	\$0

Note: A minimum of \$40,000 from the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board will also be used to develop the plan. See Attachment B: Non-LCCMR Budget Summary

<u>Deliverables</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. Corridor Plan	November 2, 2010	\$40,000	Completed
2. Governance Recommendations	November 2, 2010	<u>\$0</u>	Completed
3. Corridor CIP	Deleted	\$0	Deleted

1. Corridor Natural Resource Protection and Recreation Use Plan

County staff, with VRW Staff and Technical Advisory Group, will complete the following:

- Review existing zoning and regulations
- Review extensive data and plans pertaining to agriculture, development, recreation, transportation, water quality, and wildlife habitat
- Identifies additional stakeholders, partners, and advisors
- Through a RFP process, selects contractor to facilitate planning process and produce educational products

This plan will provide a model for creating a countywide, green infrastructure master plan with applications to many other locations throughout the state.

2. Collaborative Charter

The collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, and organizational partners will determine the most effective way of meeting both their individual and collective “interests” while attempting to maximize the multiple public benefits from potential plan implementation. The resulting “collaboration charter” will include governance policies, guidelines, and procedures critical to guiding future investments in natural resource protection and uses within this and other greenway corridors.

3. Corridor Capital Improvement Program

Identifies various financial and regulatory incentives, budgeting, and funding sources to create a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency, multi-purpose, and multi-year approach to implement and fund prioritized natural resource protection and use projects along the Vermillion River.

4. Project Evaluation

This project will be evaluated at key milestones to ensure timely documentation and appropriate corrections. A final project evaluation will be completed using actual on-the-ground projects to critique/validate the process and outcomes.

Result 1 Final Report Summary:

A tremendous amount of previous and newly developed data was organized into a simple and legible GIS-based characterization of the Vermillion River and was critical for informing the corridor plan. A map series was developed for water quality, land use, natural resources, and recreation potential.

Best practice and precedent research was intended to provide a regional and national portrait of current practices and standards, identify successful practices that are effective over the long-term, and identify innovative approaches that may benefit the Vermillion River Corridor project. Specific areas of focus include map characterization, the physical form of other protected river corridors, land and resource protection tools, restoration, recreation opportunities, funding, governance, partnerships, long-term maintenance, and monitoring. While advisable, not enough time and funding was allotted to this work and we were not able to find much transferable information.

Establishing a clear scope, process, and teams involved significant time and effort to fully engage all of the potentially interested parties including the Vermillion River Watershed Technical Advisory Group, peer watershed organizations and staff from the Vermillion corridor cities of Hastings, Farmington, and Lakeville. This phase includes development of planning process mechanisms to share/leverage findings from/with two related and concurrent projects:

1. Dakota County Greenways Collaborative, an outgrowth of Dakota County’s 2007 Park System Plan, is evaluating city-county partnership approaches for developing a 200-mile countywide,

interconnected greenway network. Portions of the Vermillion River were identified as potential greenways in the 2007 Dakota County Park System Plan.

2. Dakota County Active Living, with funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, seeks to design our environment to promote walking and biking. Several Dakota County communities participated and include segments of the Vermillion River Corridor.

A set of guiding principles was developed to articulate plan outcomes and how the planning process should occur. The guiding principles were reviewed and refined through a staff workshop and four Focus Groups and presentations to several advisory committees for Dakota County and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization.

A comprehensive communications plan was developed to disseminate timely project information to the public, publicize events for gathering community input, and share project findings throughout the project. Communications items developed during this reporting period include news releases, a project fact sheet, and a project web page. Despite these efforts, and a reasonable high public participation rate, the population demographic below 30 years was not adequately represented to speak to the future of this resource.

Focus groups were held with commercial landowners, agricultural landowners, residential landowners, and recreational representatives, to discuss major issues and expectations for the corridor. These sessions provided valuable landowner perspective on the corridor project, as well as insight on watershed activities and water resource protection regulations.

Workshop I was held for and in the five different focus areas along the corridor: Hastings, Empire Township, Eureka and New Market Townships, Lakeville/Farmington, and Vermillion/Marshan/Castle Rock townships. The first workshop provided a dynamic format that alternated staff presentations with audience engagement and exercises. Staff presented a project introduction and an overview of the river with synthesized map information. Participants were engaged through the use of an electronic Audience Participation System (APS) to provide responses to survey format questions with instant results. Survey topics included basic demographics, current interaction with the river, perception of river quality, vision for the future of the River, and input on the guiding principles. The workshop concluded with a small-group exercise in which participants selected images that demonstrate different approaches to provide major corridor benefits (water quality, habitat, recreation, economic development) in four corridor landscape settings (agriculture, residential, commercial/industrial, and open space/parks). Participants also identified map locations where they would like to see the benefits and approaches employed.

Workshop II offered participants the opportunity to review and refine draft concepts for the corridor. The workshop gathered input on participant values related to the River, refined corridor planning principles, planning and corridor design approaches, and a series of best management techniques for different river landscapes. Participants visited three stations with a display board illustrating the draft corridor concept and vignettes showing typical conditions in one of the rural, developing and urban landscape contexts and showing how the same location could be enhanced with best practices for water quality, habitat, and recreation. Attendees provided input through questions and answer session during presentations, an interactive audience participation system linked to the slide presentation, comments cards, and comments to staff. As with Workshop I, the interactive audience feedback sessions enabled the project team to comprehensively collect participant feedback across a range of topics, including audience demographics, river corridor perceptions, preferred landscape strategies, and implementation priorities.

Key findings from Workshop II include the following:

- Protecting corridor natural areas, habitat and water quality continue to be high priorities.
- A strong majority of participants indicated that the river corridor landscape techniques and practices illustrated would improve quality of life in rural, developing and urban settings.

- The availability of technical assistance, cost-share resources and demonstration projects are important considerations for river corridor stakeholders.
- Individual property rights continue to be an important consideration for many community stakeholders.
- Future recreation interests vary widely throughout the corridor and include both active and passive recreation activities.

Workshop III was held in Hastings and Farmington and participants reviewed the three, refined corridor concepts that comprise the Corridor Plan vision (water quality, habitat and stewardship, and recreation). Participants also provided input on how the Corridor Plan could be implemented, with comments on improving governance (i.e., coordination of public agency and partner organization efforts) and on parameters that they considered important in evaluating and prioritizing future corridor projects. Participants reviewed and discussed a web-based tool for selecting Best Management Practices and also viewed and commented on the North Creek Regional Greenway Simulation prepared for the Dakota County Greenways Collaborative. This simulation provided an opportunity for the public to visualize multi-purpose greenways for urban, developing and rural areas.

The project team completed refinements to the draft Vermillion River Corridor Plan document, including draft project evaluation criteria and developed the pilot version of an online best management practices (BMP) tool. The Corridor Plan http://www.vermillionriverwatershed.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=67 establishes a vision and philosophy for the corridor based on integrated consideration of multiple benefits: environmental (water quality and upland habitat), social (recreation), and economic (sustainable high-quality places to live and work). The plan language seeks to provide technical information in a manner suitable for general audiences. A high-level process overview is included as a plan appendix to provide a replicable model to others seeking to use a similar project approach.

The plan also includes the “Vermillion River Handbook” <http://www.improvethervermillionriver.org/>, a searchable, online Best Management Practices tool intended for use by a broad audience. The tool includes practices indexed by primary benefits (water quality, habitat, and recreation) and by the predominant landscape type of interest to the user (urban, rural, and developing). Information on and links to potential funding sources and technical information is included. The plan, process and products were designed to be replicable.

Project evaluation criteria are intended for use in evaluating projects submitted by private landowners and public agencies for project funding through the original project grant from the Environmental Trust Fund, as well as an ongoing Corridor Plan implementation program also funded through the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the VRWJPO, and other sources. The criteria incorporate key elements that represent the multiple benefit philosophy and approach, and will be used to evaluate and select implementation projects.

The draft plan was received by the Dakota County Board of Commissioners in August 2010 and the Board authorized release of the plan for a thirty-day public review period, from August 24 to September 24, 2010.

1. The plan document was posted online at the new website for the Vermillion River Watershed. The public review and comment period was publicized through news releases, listserv updates, and partner websites and listserv.
2. The project team provided draft plan overviews at local government meetings in all corridor communities, including the cities of Elko-New Market, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville, and Vermillion; and the townships of Castle Rock, Empire, Eureka, Marshan, New Market, and Vermillion. Draft plan overviews were also provided to the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization Board and its Planning Commission and Technical Advisory Group.
3. A public open house for the draft plan was held in Farmington.

Staff returned to the Dakota County Board of Commissioners with public review comments and received final Board approval of the plan on November 2, 2010 (Resolution No. 10-553).

Governance research involved the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, and others, culminating in a draft report prepared by Louis R. Smith and Associates. The report outlines three potential governance enhancement options for the Vermillion and other local river corridors. In applying these and other findings to the Vermillion Corridor, the project identified key governance and coordination roles (or a “governance job description”) for Vermillion Corridor, based on the functions needed for plan implementation. Public opinion on governance-related performance issues was tested at Workshop III.

While the Corridor Plan recognizes the need for effective governance, it did not recommend a preferred model for two primary reasons: 1) there was consensus that the Joint Powers Organization is still a “young” organization that is dealing with the previous local Water Plan developed by its disbanded predecessor and that there has been significant improvements over the past several years, and 2) that there is still uncertainty at the state level whether the roles of BWSR, DNR and PCA may evolve in the near term.

Development of a Collaboration Charter, including the establishment of a coordinated and prioritized Capital Improvement Program (CIP) among all of the potential entities, though still desirable and possible, is not currently feasible within the confines of this project. There are several reasons for not being able to achieve this outcome as projected. Due to the inherent complexity of the project, funding limitations and other County priorities, completion of the plan has taken longer than anticipated. Although the plan was not intended to be binding upon any of the entities, each of the jurisdictions and respective agencies will be given a formal presentation to review and comment in July 2010. The plan does include a proposed “job description” for advancing a more effective governance structure, as well as possible options to pursue. The current thinking is to use the proposed schedule and process for updating the VRWJPO water plan beginning in 2011 as the basis for creating a new governance structure, which may or may not include a collaborative charter and CIP.

The complexity and goals of this planning project and its significant budget constraints eventually resulted in a deliberate decision to take more time and rely on County and Watershed staff to make sure all parties had adequate opportunities for participation and to complete a high quality plan, rather than creating an inferior plan. This was also crucial in addressing and effectively defusing the private property rights clamor that had emerged during the project planning time frame.

The internal evaluation that occurred after the completion of the plan largely cites the lack of budget and the ability to hire non-County resources for not being able to complete the plan in a shorter time period. That said, there continued to be strong validation on the process used, the strategic use of consultant resources, the public participation process and the products and outcome of the plan. An additional validation was the receipt of a national award from the National Association of Counties for the plan in 2011.

Another key decision was to not begin the implementation phase until the plan was completed. These associated decisions delayed and significantly limited the implementation phase.

RESULT 2: Implementation of Integrated Corridor Projects

Dakota County will facilitate and use the Trust funds to provide financial incentives for on-the-ground projects that:

- Demonstrate more effective integration of water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation benefits;
- Demonstrate more effective project implementation mechanisms, including budgeting and funding, among traditional and non-traditional partnerships.

These projects may include potential pilot projects already identified prior to plan development (see Attachment B), or projects identified from the corridor plan developed in Result 1. A subsequent acquisition list will be submitted to LCCMR. All potential projects will be reviewed by staff prior to expenditure of funds.

Long-term success of new project implementation methodologies will be dependent upon the ability of the partnerships to implement projects during and after the corridor plan is developed. LCCMR funds will be leveraged with significant direct and in-direct funding from the implementation partners.

An estimated 156 acres will be protected through fee title or easement. Fee title will be held by a local unit of government or DNR. Permanent easements will be held and monitored by Dakota County.

With regard to easement stewardship, monitoring, and enforcement, Dakota County currently requires:

- A jointly developed and approved Natural Resource Management or Stewardship Plan for each easement. This plan includes individualized work plans that identify roles, activities, costs, and an implementation schedule.
- Baseline documentation (Property Report) for all easement projects. At present, the County is monitoring 30 conservation easements on nearly 2,500 acres. The County Attorney's Office has committed to enforcing the easements as necessary. The County has recently completed the development of a new land information system that integrates GIS with all electronic documents associated with the easements to further ensure monitoring compliance.

Trust Funds will also be used to begin restoring an estimated 40 acres. Restoration activities will only take place on lands permanently protected. All funds will be directed to contractors to develop these plans and/or for implementing restoration.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:

The unobligated balance of the appropriation for Dakota County wildlife habitat acquisition and development in ML 1999, Chp. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13 (m) has been applied to this result.

2008 Trust Fund Budget:	\$360,000
Amount Spent:	<u>\$360,000</u>
Balance:	\$0
1999 Transfer Budget:	\$149,965
Amount Spent:	<u>\$149,965</u>
Balance:	\$0

<u>Deliverables</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. Land Protection of 156 acres through fee title or easements	June 30, 2011	\$439,465 <u>\$509,965</u>	193 acres protected
2. Land Restoration of 40 acres	June 30, 2011	\$70,500	<u>No projects selected</u>

Note: Due to the time it took to complete the plan and solicit projects, there was inadequate time to undertake one or more ecologically-significant restoration projects with definable results by June 30, 2011. Instead, the funds were reallocated to the acquisition project which in turn will result in significant short- and long-term restoration and enhancement utilizing non-Environment and Natural Resources Trust Funds. This was discussed with LCCMR staff in spring 2011 with the understanding that this amendment would be within the intent of the project and laws of Minnesota.

Result 2 Final Report Summary:

Another key decision made during the planning phase was to not begin the implementation phase until after the plan was completed. This decision delayed and significantly limited the implementation phase.

With approval of the Corridor Plan by the County Board on November 2, 2010, the Board reviewed the proposed project application, evaluation and selection process. Materials included the application form, final project selection criteria (Water Quality, Habitat, Recreation, Financial, and Other), an easement valuation formula for corridors in townships, and staff review schedule. The Board approved the process on November 2, 2010, (Resolution No. 10-535).

The implementation phase was announced to the public via press releases, emails and postcards sent to 500 landowners along the corridor. In addition, materials were distributed to the SWCD and the VRW Planning Commission and Technical Advisory Group during their November 8, 2010 meetings.

Despite these extensive communication efforts, only official five applications were received by the December 15, 2010, deadline. Feedback from landowners indicated year-end and holiday conflicts, as well as information saturation pertaining to the River was responsible for the low response rate.

Staff completed the project evaluation process and the Agricultural Society, Inc. property emerged has the highest ranked project. This property consisted of 193 acres of restored uplands and wetlands forming the headwaters of the South Branch of the Vermillion River as part of the privately owned Dakota County Agricultural Society, Inc. property in Castle Rock Township and adjacent to the Farmington city limits. Much of the site included in two Conservation Reserve Program contracts set to expire within two years and previously restored by the Dakota SWCD and numerous local wildlife groups. The area is considered the largest and highest quality prairie in Dakota County. The uplands contained mowed, public walking trails. It was a very good example of combining the three public benefits of protecting water quality and wildlife habitat and accommodating compatible recreation. After appraisal and negotiations, the Agricultural Society Board of Directors approved selling a 193-acre permanent natural area conservation easement on May 24, 2011. On June 7, 2011, (Resolution No. 11-272), the County Board of Commissioners approved the acquisition of the Agricultural Conservation easement. This acquisition surpassed the goal of protecting 156 acres.

The Agricultural Society agreed to jointly develop a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) with the County, SWCD, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization and the Dakota County Habitat Alliance and agreed to commit \$50,000 of the proceeds to implementing the NRMP. These provisions for implementing a more comprehensive and strategic restoration and enhancement on a larger, higher quality tract of land with the involvement of many entities was deemed a better use of the allocated restoration funds than utilizing them on a number of smaller tracts in the project area.

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Staff or Contract Services:	\$40,000
Equipment:	\$0
Development:	\$0
Restoration (Contract Services):	\$40,000 (2008 Trust Fund) \$30,500 (1999 Transfer Fund)
Acquisition, including easements:	\$320,000 (2008 Trust Fund) \$119,465 (1999 Transfer Fund)
Other	\$0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:	\$400,000
TOTAL 1999 TRANSFER FUND BUDGET:	\$149,965
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:	\$549,965

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners: U.S. Natural resources Conservation Service; MN Department of Natural Resources; Board of Soil and Water Resources; Dakota and Scott SWCD; Metropolitan Council; Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization; Cities of Apple Valley, Farmington, Hastings and Lakeville; Empire, Eureka, New Market, and Vermillion Townships; Minnehaha Creek Watershed District; Friends of the Mississippi River; Trout Unlimited; and the Dakota Habitat Alliance.

B. Other Funds Spent during the Project Period:

1) Result 1

\$40,000 cash from Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
\$150,000 of cash and in-kind from Dakota County
 \$190,000

2) Result 2

\$50,000 cash from Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization
 \$241,422 from FY 11 Outdoor Heritage funds
\$320,000 in landowner donation
 \$611, 742

Other Land Protection within the Corridor during project period

\$759,000 from the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program for easements
 Totaling 445 acres

\$588,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for easements

\$400,000 from landowner donated easement value

\$76,000 from the Vermillion River Watershed JPO for easements

\$30,000 from United States Environmental Protection Agency

\$30,000 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

\$1,883,000

C. Past Spending: Approximately \$3 million has been spent establishing watershed standards, a buffer classification system, conducting a variety of studies, land protection, natural resource restoration, and monitoring.

D. Time: Completion by June 30, 2011.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

As the project transitioned from planning to implementation, information has been shared with the general public through the various media forms:

- New website for the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization launched in 2010 and contains information on the Corridor Plan project as well as the Vermillion Corridor Handbook online BMP tool
- Dakota County Update articles in the monthly newsletters for the Dakota County Board of Commissioners
- Dakota County environmental listserv: draft plan open house information
- News releases: project updates and information on the draft plan open house and good coverage in the Star tribune and Pioneer Press as well as local papers.
- Project updates were provided to the Dakota County Board, Dakota County Planning Commission, Dakota County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, Dakota County Township Officers Association, Vermillion River Watershed (VRW) Joint Powers

- Organization, Farmland and Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee, VRW Planning Commission and VRW Technical Advisory Group.
- Draft plan overviews provided at the Dakota County Board of Commissioners meetings
 - Project overviews provided to the Farmland and Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee, County Planning Commission, Vermillion River Watershed Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Group during the draft plan review in 2010.
 - Draft plan presentations at local government meetings in all corridor communities: the cities of Elko-New Market, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville, and Vermillion; and the townships of Castle Rock, Empire, Eureka, Marshan, New Market, and Vermilion.
 - Open house information posted on the Friends of the Mississippi River website and distributed through their listserv
 - 3,000+ Workshop III invitation postcards sent to landowners within 300 feet of the river in Scott and Dakota counties
 - Workshop information posted on the Friends of the Mississippi River website and distributed through their listserv
 - Project overview provided at the Dakota County Board of Commissioners Land Conservation Vision workshop on March 16, 2010.
 - Project information was provided to visitors at the Dakota County Fair.
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 - The plan received a National Association of Counties Award in 2011 and will be presented during the annual meeting of the American Planners Association in Minnesota on September 29, 2011.

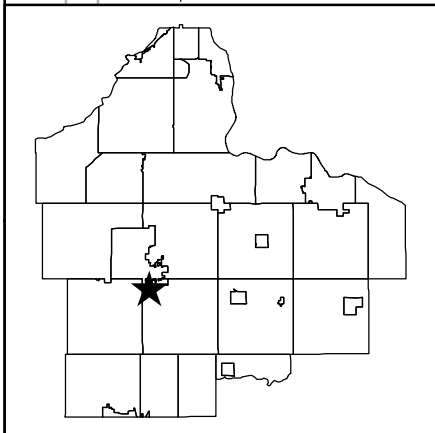
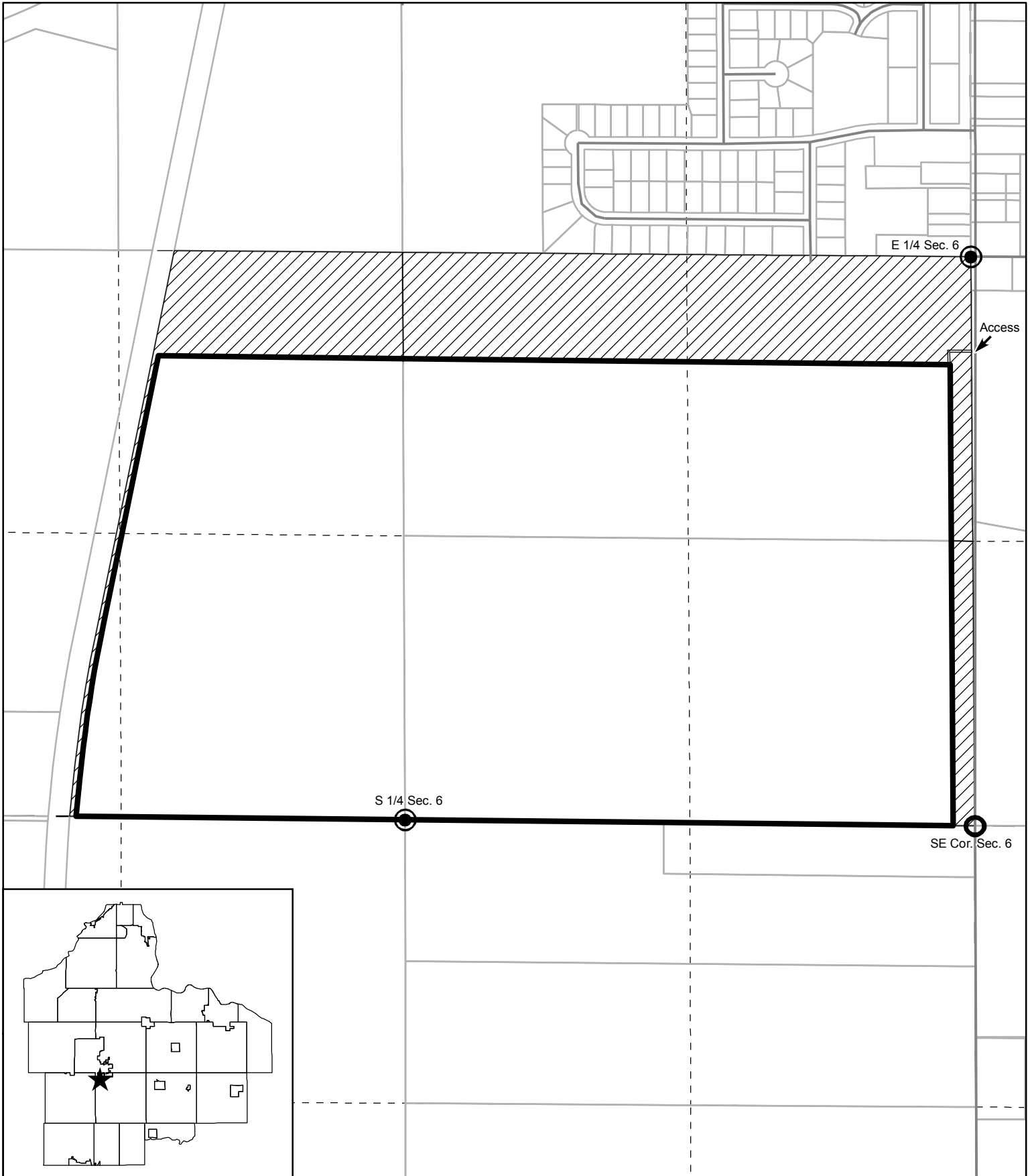
VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)									
Project Title: Integrating Vermillion River Corridor Resource Protection and Funding									
Project Manager Name: Alan Singer									
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$400,000 + \$149,965 = \$549,965									
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									
2008 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance 6/30/2011	Result 2 Budget:	Revised Budget	Amount Spent	Balance 6/30/2011	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Develop Comprehensive Corridor Protection and Use Plan</i>			<i>Implementation of Integrated Corridor Projects</i>					
BUDGET ITEM									
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits									
Contracts									
Professional/technical (TBD via RFP for facilitation and plan products)	40,000	40,000	0		0			40,000	0
Land acquisition (fee title)									
Initial appropriation				80,000	0				0
Chub Lake fund transfer									
Land rights acquisition (less than fee)									
Initial appropriation				240,000	360,000	360,000	0	360,000	0
Chub Lake fund transfer				119,465	149,965	149,965	0	149,965	0
Other land improvemen (restoration)									
Initial appropriation				40,000	0				
Chub Lake fund transfer				30,500	0				
COLUMN TOTAL	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$509,965	\$509,965		\$0	\$549,965	\$0

Dakota County Agricultural Society, Inc. Easement

PLS Section
Total Easement Acres

6, 113-19
193.20



N
○ Section Corner ● Quarter Corner ▭ Easement Area ▨ Exception Area □ Parcels — Roads

Map Date: 6/6/11 1 inch = 600 feet