

2008 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2010

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor
PROJECT MANAGER: Nancy Fasching
AFFILIATION: Southwest Initiative Foundation
MAILING ADDRESS: 15 3rd Avenue NW
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Hutchinson, MN 55350
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WEBSITE: www.swifoundation.org
FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3e

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$1,000,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Green Corridor Legacy Program will provide Minnesotans public access to high quality game and wildlife habitat through a multi-year land acquisition plan.

The initial phase of this project included:

- Acquisition of 249.23 acres of easement free fee-title acquisition conservation lands from willing sellers. This program acquired land from willing and supportive landowners. The land is purchased and then transferred to the DNR for long-term habitat conservation, outdoor recreational access, sustainability, and monitoring. These properties include the Whispering Ridge Aquatic Management Area in Redwood County (182.87 acres), Beaver Falls Aquatic Management Area in Renville County (6.6 acres), and two additions to Fort Ridgely State Park in Renville County (29.85 acres and 30 acres).
- Development of a conservation plan guidance document that insures both the natural resources and the natural history of this corridor are restored, conserved, protected and utilized in manners that balance the ecological, cultural, socio-economic and recreational needs of today, while preserving these resources for future generations.
- Organization of a variety of stakeholders into a working partnership team committed to the vision for a Green Corridor in the Minnesota River Valley.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Results from this project have been disseminated as follows:

- The conservation plan will be used to guide and vet proposed acquisitions by Green Corridor, Inc.
- More importantly, the plan will be used as a key decision support system by a wide variety of conservation partners and stakeholders within the project area to craft and implement a conservation and economic vision for the project area.
- The plan will be disseminated principally through the web, but is also available in limited numbers via CD and hard copy format. In the near future, once the new

Tatanka Bluff Council website is fully operational, a recap of these FY08 ENRTF appropriation accomplishments will be posted on this website under the "Green Corridor" icon tab. The website will ask viewers for comments and feedback concerning the various strategies and outcomes related to this project and the Conservation Plan. The project will also served as a cornerstone for future funding requests to the LCCMR and from the Outdoor Heritage Legacy Fund.

The communications and outreach activities that have been done for the Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Project include:

- The plan has been adopted by Green Corridor, Inc. as its conservation vision for the Middle Minnesota Valley
- The final plan was presented to the public on May 6th, 2010 at the Tatanka Bluffs Council annual meeting at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls MN.
- The conservation plan entitled, "Conservation in the Middle Minnesota Valley: A Blueprint and Action Plan" was produced in hard copy, CD and web format. The product will be available via the following web sites: Green Corridor, Inc. (www.tatankabluffs.com) and Great River Greening (www.greatrivergreening.org).
- Since the start of this project in the summer of 2008 numerous meetings, public forums, and media outreach activities have taken place that have illustrated the intended outcomes, accomplishments, and public benefits of this appropriation.

Trust Fund 2008 Work Program Final Report

Date of Report: June 30, 2010

Date of Next Status Report: Final

Date of Work Program Approval: June 17, 2008

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2010

I. PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor

Project Manager: Nancy Fasching

Affiliation: Southwest Initiative Foundation

Mailing Address: 15 3rd Avenue NW

City/State/Zip: Hutchinson, MN 55350

Telephone Number: Foundation (320) 587-4848

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FAX Number: (320) 587-3838

Web Page Address: - www.swifoundation.org

Location: The project area is the Minnesota River Valley from Upper Sioux Agency State Park to Fort Ridgely State Park, located in Renville, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Brown, and Nicollet counties. (See attached map)

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$1,000,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$1,000,000
	Equal Balance:	\$0

Legal Citation: ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3e

Appropriation Language:

Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Land Protection –

\$1,000,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Southwest Initiative Foundation for planning, acquisition, and easements in the Minnesota River Valley. The priority for acquisition must be on lands with native prairies, unique geological features, fens, and wetlands not currently under a permanent protection program. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as a part of the work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and appropriate funding for monitoring. No more than ten percent may be spent on planning and management.

II. & III. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Green Corridor Legacy Program will provide Minnesotans public access to high quality game and wildlife habitat through a multi-year land acquisition plan.

The initial phase of this project included:

- Acquisition of 249.23 acres of easement free fee-title acquisition conservation lands from willing sellers. This program acquired land from willing and supportive landowners. The land is purchased and then transferred to the DNR for long-term habitat conservation, outdoor recreational access, sustainability, and monitoring. These properties include the Whispering Ridge Aquatic Management Area in Redwood County (182.87 acres), Beaver Falls Aquatic

Management Area in Renville County (6.6 acres), and two additions to Fort Ridgely State Park in Renville County (29.85 acres and 30 acres).

- Development of a conservation plan guidance document that insures both the natural resources and the natural history of this corridor are restored, conserved, protected and utilized in manners that balance the ecological, cultural, socio-economic and recreational needs of today, while preserving these resources for future generations.
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Results from this project have been disseminated as follows:

- The conservation plan is used to guide and vet proposed acquisitions by Green Corridor, Inc.
- More importantly, the plan is used as a key decision support system by a wide variety of conservation partners and stakeholders within the project area to craft and implement a conservation and economic vision for the project area.
- The plan was disseminated principally through the web, but is also available in limited numbers via CD and hard copy format. In the near future, once the new Tatanka Bluff Council website is fully operational, a recap of these FY08 ENRTF appropriation accomplishments are posted on this website under the “Green Corridor” icon tab. The website will ask viewers for comments and feedback concerning the various strategies and outcomes related to this project and the Conservation Plan. The project will also served as a cornerstone for future funding requests to the LCCMR and from the Outdoor Heritage Legacy Fund.

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Ownership acquisition of a minimum of 220 acres of easement free fee-title acquisition conservation lands

Description: The priority for acquisition was for high-quality natural resource or conservation lands with native prairies, unique geological features, fens, and wetlands not currently under a permanent protection program to provide natural buffers to water resources.

Ownership was transferred to the appropriate DNR divisions (or government entity) to best preserve and manage the specific property for its intended use, as outlined in the conservation guidance document:

- inholdings in state parks were transferred to state parks
- buffering lands in state parks were transferred to state parks pending boundary adjustments
- ecologically sensitive properties needing greater protection became SNAs
- appropriate acquisitions became WMAs or AMAs
- portions of acquisitions may become part of the Minnesota River Trail with the T&W Division State Canoe and Boating Routes public water access sites, rest areas and camp sites

The **Acquisition Process** of the project based was on the recommendation of the selection committee until the conservation plan was completed to determine the prime property for purchase. The selection committee included the following members:

- DNR - Wildlife Division: Local area wildlife manager (2)
- DNR - Fisheries Division: Local area fisheries manager (2)
- DNR - Trails & Waterways: Local area supervisor (2)
- DNR - Eco Services: Local regional supervisor (1)
- DNR - State Parks: Upper Sioux Agency & Fort Ridgely State Park rangers
- Green Corridor Team: Four executive board members
- Tatanka Bluffs Corridor: 1 Redwood and 1 Renville County representative

The following **Acquisition Criteria** was used as the basis for determining the order in which land parcels were selected, based on key properties and characteristics.

The priority for acquisition was on high-quality natural resource or conservation lands with native prairies, unique geological features, fens, and wetlands not currently under a permanent protection program that provide natural buffers to water resources.

Step 1 - Key Questions

1. Does the property currently have a permanent conservation easement?
If yes, do not pursue acquisition
If no, go to step 2
2. Is the current property owner(s) a willing seller?
If no, do not pursue acquisition
If yes, proceed with ranking

Step 2 - Select Appropriate Category

Public Use other than Wildlife/Fisheries related

1. Does the property connect to existing trail easements? 10 points
- OR
2. Does the property have the potential for trail development? 5 points
3. Is the property suitable for a water access site? 10 points
4. Does the site have potential for other use (e.g. dog trail)? 5 points

Wildlife/Fisheries Related Recreation

1. Does the property offer at least fair opportunity for:
 - Deer hunting 5 points
 - Wild Turkey hunting 5 points
 - Pheasant hunting 5 points
 - Waterfowl hunting 5 points
 - Trapping and/or small game hunting 5 points
 - Shore Fishing 5 points

2. Does the property offer viewing opportunities for:
 - Raptors (e.g. bald eagles) 2 points
 - Wetland birds 2 points
 - Grassland Birds 2 points
 - Forest Birds 2 points

Water Resource Protection

1. Does the property contain frontage on the Minnesota River? 10 points
2. Does the property contain frontage on a tributary of the Minnesota River? 5 points
3. Does the property contain wetlands? 5 points
4. Does the property contain springs or seeps? 5 points

Biological Diversity Protection

1. Does the property contain or offer habitat to Federal or State listed species of conservation concern (e.g. endangered, threatened, special concern)? 10 points
2. Does the property contain habitat listed by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS)? 10 points
3. Does the property contain natural habitat not listed by MCBS? 5 points
4. Does the property buffer other protected conservation land (e.g. RIM, WMA) 5 points
5. Does the property have good potential for restoration of wetland, prairie, riparian forest, or oak savanna? 5 points

Acquisition List/Transaction Costs

- Beaver Falls AMA, 6.6 acres, 66 Points Received, Appraised Value \$12,600, Purchase Price \$12,600, Total Project Cost \$12,892 (Partial DNR Funding of \$6,300)
- Fort Ridgely State Park - Beltz tract, 30 acres, 48 Points Received + State Park In Holding, Appraised Value \$150,000, Purchase Price \$150,000, Total Project Cost \$153,486
- Fort Ridgely State Park - Firle tract – 29.9 acres, 48 Points Received + State Park In Holding, Appraised Value \$150,000, Purchase Price \$150,000, Total Project Cost \$151,653
- Whispering Ridge AMA – 182.9 acres, 113 Points Received, Appraised Value \$593,290, Purchase Price \$593,290, Total Project Cost \$598,895

A budgeted amount of \$900,200 covered actual land acquisition costs.

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. 220 Acres Easement Free Conservation Land	June 30, 2010	\$899,590	
Professional Services for Land Acquisition		\$5,614	

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget:	\$905,204
Amount Spent:	\$905,204
Balance:	\$0

Completion Date: June 30, 2010

Final Report Summary:

Property acquired includes Beaver Falls AMA for 6.6 acres with partnership funding by the DNR for 50% which closed on March 10, 2009; Whispering Ridge AMA for 182.87 acres with 100% funding by the Green Corridor which closed on June 29, 2009; Ft. Ridgely State Park – Firle tract – for 29.85 acres with 100% funding by the Green Corridor which closed on June 29, 2009; Ridgely State Park –Beltz tract for 30 acres with 100% funding by the Green Corridor which closed December 18, 2009. All

projects have been donated to the state of Minnesota and managed by the DNR by their respective divisions into perpetuity. The total number of acres acquired is 249.32 exceeding the project's goal of 220 acres.

Result 2: Conservation Plan for the Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor

Description: Engaged the multiple stakeholder groups to develop a conservation plan that identifies and includes the following:

1. known resources (natural area types, diversity, complexes; relevant plans & programs)
2. specific conservation & recreational priorities (especially bridging opportunities to existing resources)

This plan serves as a tool for future acquisition of land by priority area.

TASK	DELIVERABLE
<p>I. Determine Initial Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Meeting (Informational) ○ Organize Technical Advisory Committee (DNR, county planners, and NGOs) ○ Develop a Scope of Work; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Goals. ○ Objectives. ○ Criteria for land priorities ○ Prepare a Time-Line, which includes coordination with UM trail study 	<p>Adopted Conservation goals, objectives, and criteria</p> <p>Timeline for year process, including input from technical advisory committee, the general public, and any other stakeholders determined. At least quarterly meetings; see below for online input from public.</p> <p>List and Responsibilities of Technical Advisory Committee and of core management team</p> <p>Coordination with SWIF to set up public web page (recommended to keep public informed and to post ongoing documents for comment)</p>
<p>II. Collect and Analyze Resource Data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify lands with native prairies, unique geological features, fens, and wetlands not currently under a permanent protection program. ○ Determine the relevant existing physical, natural and cultural resources, plans and studies ○ Ascertain the status of resource information; ○ Analyze resources; ○ As they relate to issues, concerns or problems. ○ In light of present and future conditions. 	<p>An inventory and analysis of resources, plans, and studies gathered (e.g., DNR County Biological Survey for the corridor).</p> <p>Determination of any missing information, which must be gathered by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donated professional services. ○ In-kind services. ○ Volunteer. ○ Contract.

<p>III. Prepare Draft River Conservation Plan:</p> <p>The Draft Plan shall contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Background information; ○ A map of the corridor. ○ Land use patterns. ○ An inventory of resources gathered. ○ An analyses of the appropriate resources ○ Listing of issues, concerns, opportunities and threats to ecological values. ○ Conservation options (issues, opportunities and concerns solution); ○ Consider options that promote resource awareness and stewardship. ○ A catalogue of implementation, acquisition and development actions. ○ Proposed time frame for implementation/development. ○ Proposed lead agency or contact person to undertake activity. ○ Other appropriate information. 	<p>The core of the plan is the conservation and open space alternatives and accompanying maps. While we cannot dictate at this point what that will look like, we anticipate various options or, if preferred, a sequence of prioritizations.</p> <p>For example: Conservation Alternative 1 -- existing public lands and certain critical Private Conservation Lands only (as determined by criteria in Task I). This alternative will assess the extent to which Existing Conservation Lands would suffice to protect the Critical Natural and Cultural Features</p> <p>Conservation Alternative 2 -- protect Essential Ecological Processes to sustain Critical Natural and Cultural and provide Recreational Corridors</p> <p>Conservation Alternative 3 -- include additional areas with potential Conservation value for recreation, habitat, corridor, and ecological processes.</p>
<p>IV. Public Meeting to develop and use criteria for evaluating the conservation alternatives.</p>	<p>Documentation of comments</p>
<p>V. Prepare Final Green Corridor Conservation Plan</p>	<p>Final Plan</p>

Note: all steps imply working with a core management team (that includes SWIF and LCCMR project manager) and a technical advisory committee. Also, the National Park Service Trails and Conservation Assistance program has offered for free their services to help facilitate public meetings.

Great River Greening Estimated cost

Staff: \$33,200
Ecologist @ 525 hrs
Planner or Landscape Architect @ 525 hrs
Ecological assistant @ 215 hrs
Mileage: \$1800
Mapping and printing \$5,000

Total: \$40,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. Conservation Plan – Great River Greening	Jun. 30, 2010	\$35,303	

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:	Trust Fund Budget:	\$35,303
	Amount Spent:	\$35,303
	Balance:	0

Completion Date: June 30, 2010

Final Report Summary:

The concept for this Conservation Plan called for development of 3 independent plans (focusing on natural resources, cultural/historic, and recreation) merged together into a final conservation strategy.

Through this project we:

- Defined the boundaries of the project area
- Crafted a project team diagram with associated teams’ responsibilities
- Drafted a timeline for completion of the plan
- Drafted a work breakdown structure for the project
- Undertook a stakeholder analysis as a step in developing a communication plan for the project
- Nominated possible team leads for each of the 3 sections of the plan (recreation, cultural/historic, and natural resources)
- Identified the variety of data available for use in the planning process
- Identified in concept the process and data structure underpinning the natural resources planning and prioritization component of the plan
- Reviewed the planning process utilized for the DNR Southern Minnesota Region to assess its utility as a framework for the Minnesota Valley Green Corridor.
- Identified specific data sets utilized and available from the DNR to this project.
- Undertook data collection and analyses related to the prioritization of lands

The conservation plan is complete and a public meeting unveiling of the information was held May 6, 2010.

Budget Amendment Request - to shift \$882 of the conservation plan line for Great River Greening Travel to Great River Greening Printing. The MN River Valley Green Corridor Group has raised the funds of \$4,697 to complete the full funding of the Conservation Plan.

Result 3: Coordination of Partnerships & Acquisition Process

This result will included the time associated with contacting property owners, partners, and overall coordination of the initiative efforts. Southwest Initiative Foundation was responsible for accounting and administrative efforts. The project manager was ultimately responsible for coordinating property acquisition including the responsibilities to develop, solicit approval from partners, and implement process for immediate land acquisitions. The position will also coordinated public relations and information outreach, along with cultivating partner relationships moving the project into the long term vision for area residents.

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. Accounting Efforts			
7% FTE Direct Costs SWIF Accountant (\$70,000 direct costs x 7%)	June 30, 2010	\$4,900	
2. Administrative Efforts			

7% FTE Direct Costs SWIF Grant Officer (\$70,000 direct costs x 7%)	June 30, 2010	\$4,900
3. Coordination of land acquisition		
Project Manager Contract (600 hours @ \$75 per hour = \$45,000) (9,900 miles @ \$.505 per mile = \$5,000)	June 30, 2010	\$49,693
Summary Budget Information for Result 3: Trust Fund Budget:		\$59,493
Amount Spent:		\$59,493
Balance:		\$ 0

Completion Date: June 30, 2010

Final Report Summary:

The Southwest Initiative Foundation provided the fiscal accounting and administrative lead for this project.

Billable compensation for contract services for Project Manager services performed by Green Corridor Consulting, Inc – Brad Cobb from July 1, 2008 – December 18, 2009. A brief overview of those activities (detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09) outlined as follows:

Project General Administration – 321 Total Hours

Based on the Acquisition Selection Committee criteria recommendations, the contract project manager coordinated the review of numerous proposals with six (6) different projects totaling 554.7 acres which were considered for funding. Numerous landowner and DNR agency meetings/process reviews/reports were conducted/performed to move each of these individual projects forward and coordinated on-going acquisition activities and processes. All projects have been transferred to the respective divisions of the MN DNR and have been approved by the regional director of the DNR.

Because this was a first year project funded by the E&NRTEF, numerous public relation and information outreach activities were performed along with cultivating numerous partner relationships. Such activities are important for the success of the project and centered on providing area residents and stakeholders a long term vision of the Green Corridor initiatives. Groups informed of this project include the MN River Valley Scenic By-Way Association, Tatanka Bluffs Corridor group, National Wild Turkey Federation, Minnesota Deer Hunters, and area landowner groups.

Project Conservation Plan Assistance – 25 Hours

The contract project manager has been working closely with Great River Greening to develop a comprehensive and/or conservation plan by coordinating and attending stakeholder meetings and helping to develop key focus groups.

Beaver Falls AMA – Closed on March 10, 2009 – 20 Total Hours

This is a DNR lead project.

Detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09

Two (2) hours @ \$75 per hour and 258 miles @ \$.55 per mile. Billable activities associated to this project included coordinating and attending the closing, drive time, and post project closing meeting/discussion with DNR.

3/2/09: .25 hours Coordinated closing time with landowner & DNR
3/10/09 – 1.5 hours closing in Olivia and 138 miles – St. Joseph MN to Olivia and return
3/12/09 – .25 hours follow up with DNR Fisheries concerning Beaver Falls closing and 120 miles
To/From St Joseph MN to Hutchinson MN

Brickyard AMA – Final disposition no acquisition – 7 Total Hours

Detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09

Two (2) hours @ \$75 per hour. No mileage recorded. Billable activities associated to this project included coordinating the closure of this project. This project was pulled from the Green Corridor Accomplishment report because the DNR offer to the landowner exceeded the appraised value by more than 10%. The DNR did acquire this property with our financial assistance.

3/8/09: .5 hours preparation for end of March closing with DNR

3/19/09: 1.5 hours making final decisions w/DNR and SWIF to pull this project from Green Corridor project list

Ft. Ridgely State Park – Firlle Tract – Closed on June 29, 2009 – 64 Total Hours

This is a Green Corridor lead acquisition. Action:

- Property selection
- Appraisal certified by the DNR.
- Negotiations with the landowner
- Access easement request has been submitted to the landowner
- Final purchase agreements delivered
- Resolution of title issues
- County board notified
- Verification of the LCCMR Exhibit F elements

Detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09

Twelve (12) hours @ \$75 per hour and 378 miles @ \$.55 per mile. Billable activities associated to this project included coordinating and presented to the Renville County Board of Commissioners meeting (5/19/09) of the notification of the pending sale/transfer, coordinating the final elements of the states title/abstract review , verification w/SWIF & DNR that all LCCMR Exhibit F elements were satisfied, and coordinating and attending the closing in Hutchinson MN.

5/11/09: 1 hour to assist SWIF with compiling Exhibit F documents – e.g. abstracts

5/19/09: 4 hours to attend Renville County Board notification (Firlle and Beltz tracts) in Olivia and 138 miles to/from St Joseph MN to Olivia MN

5/27/09: 1 hour to assist SWIF with Exhibit F documents – e.g. County Board Notification letters.

5/28/09: 1 hour meeting with landowner in Fairfax and 130 miles from Sanborn MN to Fairfax then to St Joseph.

6/4, 6/10, 6/11, 6/15, 6/16, 6/19, and 6/24/09: 3 hours total over these 7 days with numerous phone calls and emails concerning the missing trail easement language and reconstruction of warranty deed for this language with SWIF, DNR and AGO and then final resolution and verification of closing documents on 6/24/09.

6/29/09: 2 hours attended closing in Hutchinson MN and 50 miles from Clara City MN to Hutchinson and 60 miles from Hutchinson MN to St Joseph MN

Whispering Ridge AMA – the Zimmermann Tract – Closed on June 29, 2009 - 66 Total Hours

This is a Green Corridor lead acquisition. Action:

- Property selection
- Appraisal certified by the DNR.
- Negotiations with the landowner
- Access easement request has been submitted to the landowner

- Final purchase agreements delivered
- Resolution of title issues
- County board notified
- Verification of the LCCMR Exhibit F elements

Detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09

Twenty five (25) hours @ \$75 per hour and 496 miles @ \$.55 per mile. Billable activities associated to this project included purchase agreement negotiations (two visits) with landowner, assistance landowner with the delivery of the updated abstract (new survey of building site exclusion area) to DNR/state, coordinated and presented to the Redwood County Board of Commissioner (April 14, 2009) meeting for the purpose of notification of pending sale and transfer, verification of all Exhibit F elements have been completed, coordinated and resolved AGO/DNR with landowner concerning questions about an un-disclosed quick claim document, mortgage satisfaction with landowner bank in Iowa, and coordinated and attending closing in Clara City MN.

3/4/09: 1 hour spent confirming appraisal status via emails and phone calls w/SWIF and DNR.

3/14/09: 2 hours spent reviewing certified appraisal and phone call with landowner to discuss the purchase agreement process and scheduling a face to face meeting.

3/19/09: 6 hours spent travel and meeting time with landowners at their home in NW Redwood County to discuss purchase agreement negotiations and other processes. And 214 miles to/from St Joseph MN to Zimmermann home NW of Redwood Falls.

4/13/09: 1 hour spent for Redwood County Board presentation preparation and phone call with DNR Fisheries.

4/14/09: 5 hours spent travel and attending Redwood County Board of Commission notification. And 206 miles to/from St Joseph MN to Redwood Falls.

5/12/09: 1 hour spent clarifying with SWIF and DNR an abstract question concerning the legal (correct spelling) of the landowner name.

5/19/09: 2 hours spent reviewing abstract/deed description and clarifying the survey description concerning the approx 10 acres building site exclusion.

5/22/09: 1 hour spent determining a possible closing date with DNR and then sharing this information with the landowner.

6/16/09: 1 hour spent reviewing AGO questions concerning abstract; e.g. quick claim deed missing, better clarification of utility easement on property, the 2 mortgage satisfactions, and 2009 property taxes that still needed to be paid.

6/23/09: 1 hour spent confirming closing date details with SWIF, DNR, and landowner.

6/26/09: 1 hour spent working with SWIF and landowner to confirm payment of 2009 property taxes which still have not been satisfied. Landowner will take care by closing date.

6/29/09: 3 hours spent driving and attending closing in Clara City. And 76 miles from St Joseph MN to Clara City MN.

Turkey Foot WMA – Final disposition no acquisition – 20 Total Hours

This is a Green Corridor lead acquisition. Action:

- Property selection
- Appraisal certified by the DNR.
- Negotiations with the landowner
- Access easement request has been submitted to the landowner
- Final purchase agreements delivered
- Resolution of title issues
- County board notified
- Verification of the LCCMR Exhibit F elements

Detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09

Three (3) hours and 180 miles @ \$.55 per mile. Billable activities associated to this project were for the final disposition or termination of this project from the Green Corridor Accomplishment report. This project had to be terminated due to DNR Fisheries withdrawal from 50% funding from the Whispering Ridge AMA so 100% of the funding of Whispering Ridge was made by the Green Corridor which left no funds for Turkey Foot WMA. This was a mutually agreed resolution with DNR Fisheries and Wildlife at a meeting in St Paul on 3/4/09. Turkey Foot WMA is now in the hands of the DNR and as of December 18, 2009 has not closed.

3/4/09: 3 hours spent coordinating, driving, and attending meeting at DNR St Paul offices with Kim Hennings –DNR Wildlife and Mike Halverson DNR Fisheries to discuss and finalize options on Turkey Foot. And 180 miles; to/from St Joseph MN to St Paul.

Ft. Ridgely State Park – Beltz Tract – Closed December 28, 2009 – 77 Total Hours

This is a Green Corridor lead acquisition. Action:

- Property selection
- Appraisal certified by the DNR.
- Negotiations with the landowner
- Access easement request has been submitted to the landowner
- Final purchase agreements delivered
- Resolution of title issues
- County board notified
- Verification of the LCCMR Exhibit F elements

Detail available for period 3/1/09 to 12/31/09

Twenty three (23) hours @ \$75 per hour and 558 miles @ \$.55 per mile. Billable activities associated to this project were higher in terms of the number of estimated hours back in February 2009 due to many unanticipated events and delays and landowner concerns. Activities associated to the completion of the project included three (3) face to face meetings, numerous phone calls and email exchanges with the landowner from March thru December 2009 to discuss and resolve reasons for project completion delays, survey and boundary questions, delays in receiving the final purchase agreement, and final resolution to several AGO question on mortgage satisfactions to name a few. Other billable activities included coordinating and presenting to the Renville County Board of Commissioners (5/19/09 – same county board meeting as the Firle notification) notification of pending sale/transfer, completion and review of all Exhibit F elements, and coordination and attending the closing in Fairfax MN.

3/2/09: 1 hour preparing and conducting conference call with landowner to discuss abstract and access easement questions

3/12/09: 2 hours to meet with appraiser D. Mattison to discuss Beltz appraisal and appraisal processes. And 206 miles attending this meeting.

3/24/09: 1 hour spent communicating with DNR (Thews) to discuss possible appraisal cost share w/DNR, confirming DNR abstract/title opinion agreements and 3rd Party Letters

3/25/09: 1 hour spent preparing and discussing status of appraisal, access easement requirements, and acquisition processes with the landowner

4/3/09: 1 hour spent preparing and coordinating with SWIF and appraiser status of appraisal and submission of Letter of Engagement letter for certified appraisal process.

4/22/09: 1 hour spent confirming and coordination the receipt of certified appraisal w/DNR and SWIF and next steps.

4/30/09: 1 hour spent coordinating with DNR the county board notification process and letter. This time also included Firle county board notification which was not billed in the Firle project.

5/19/09: No time billed. Attended the Firle/Beltz county board notifications in Olivia MN. This time and mileage was billed under the Firle project since both notifications were conducted at the same meeting.

6/10/09: 1 hour spent working with landowner on status of appraisals and the need and requirements for a recordable survey document and the associated elements of this document.
6/24/09: 1 hour spent reviewing certified appraisal
6/26, 7/1, 7/2, 7/8, 7/15, 7/20, 7/22, and 7/28/09: 4 hours spent over the course of these 8 days with numerous emails and phone calls developing, negotiating, coordinating and discussing all elements of the pending Purchase Agreement with SWIF, Landowner, and DNR.
8/11/09: 1 hour spent coordinating and discussing Purchase Agreement amendments by landowner with SWIF and DNR.
8/18/09: .5 hours spent discussing Purchase Agreement amendments and next steps with landowner.
9/8/09: 1 hour spent communicating with SWIF the status of the updated abstract and beginning to review /compile balance of Exhibit F elements.
10/15/09: 2 hours spent preparing and with meeting with landowner to discuss revised Purchase Agreement. And 176 miles to/from Fairfax MN and St Joseph MN.
10/27/09: .5 hours spent confirming receipt of revised Purchase Agreement by SWIF and ensuring DNR is receiving a copy to begin the title opinion review by state/DNR.
11/19, 11/20, 11/30, 12/7, 12/9, 12/10, 12/11, 12/14, and 12/15/09: 4 hours spent on numerous emails and telephone calls over the course of these 9 days discussing with SWIF, DNR, and/or landowner all of the remaining questions/details related to scheduling the 12/18/09 closing date and finalize remaining questions which included the remaining mortgage satisfactions.
12/18/09: 2 hours spent preparing and attending the property closing in Fairfax MN. And 176 miles to/from Fairfax MN and St Joseph MN.

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Staff/Administration & Contract Plan Development Services:	\$94,796
Equipment: (None)	
Development: (None)	
Restoration: (None)	
Acquisition, including easements:	\$905,204
Other: (None)	
TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:	\$1,000,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$1,000,000

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS:

A. Project Partners that will receive project dollars

Great River Greening Organization (GRGO)	\$40,000
Project Managing Consultant	\$50,000
Southwest Initiative Foundation	\$9,800
Land Owners for Property Acquisition	\$900,200

Projected Site Specific Acquisition Partners:

- DNR State Parks Division for property ownership
- DNR Fisheries Division for property ownership
- DNR Wildlife Division for property ownership
- Minnesota Deer Hunters Association to support additional property purchases
- National Wild Turkey Federation to support additional property purchases
- Waukon RIM to support additional property purchases

B. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent During the Project Period:

Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor of Tatanka Bluffs - \$4,697 to complete the conservation plan contract.

C. Past Spending: N/A

D. Time: 2008 – 2010 was the initial phase of establishing the Green Corridor of the Minnesota River Valley. This is a multi-year effort that we are embarking on, with a projected completion of potentially 20 years.

VII. DISSEMINATION: The conservation plan is available and the public is kept up to date as progress occurs. A web page is available for public posting and comments. Public relations material is available to tell the story and vision of the Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor.

VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports was submitted December 31, 2008, June 30, 2009, and December 31, 2009. A final work program report and associated products was submitted June 30, 2010.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A

Potential Acquisition List

- Proposed Beaver Falls AMA – new AMA along Minnesota River totaling 6.6 acres.
- Inholding in Fort Ridgely addition - approx. 30 acres – Beltz tract
- Inholding in Fort Ridgely addition - - 30 acres – Firle tract
- Upper Sioux Agency property along the Minnesota River with rock outcroppings and will provide a major linkage to significant geological, historical and recreational sites - approx. 182 acres – the Zimmermann tract

At completion of the plan, it is the guide in acquisitions.

Amendment request 10/22/2008 – approval date 11/14/08:

This amendment request is for section VI Other Funds and Partners by adding two (2) new partners and to section Potential Acquisition List by adding several new potential acquisition projects and made minor text changes to several others. Please note the new addition in this section called Beaver Falls AMA will likely close within the next 30-60 days.

Amendment request 12/23/08

This amendment request is for section Potential Acquisition List by removing the Jacobson, Cold Spring and Hayes tracts and adding the Brickyard AMA.














Brickyard tract is removed because the DNR purchased the Brickyard AMA tract with other funds because the purchase price was more than 110% of the appraised value.

There were no remaining Green Corridor funds available to acquire the Turkey Foot property since the Whispering Ridge acquisition was modified to a solo Green Corridor Acquisition (DNR dropped from the Whispering Ridge acquisition partnership due to lack of available funds).

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)															
Project Title: <i>Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor</i>															
Project Contact Name: Nancy Fasching															
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 1,000,000															
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															
2008 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	Amount Spent 6/30/10	Balance 6/30/10	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	Amount Spent 6/30/10	Balance 3/1/10	<u>Result 3 Budget:</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	Amount Spent 6/30/10	Balance 6/30/10	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE	
	<i>Land Acquisition</i>				<i>Conservation Plan</i>				<i>Administration</i>						
BUDGET ITEM				0				0				0			
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits				0				0				0			
SWIF Accountant				0				0	4,900	4,900	4,900	0	4,900	0	
SWIF Grant Officer				0				0	4,900	4,900	4,900	0	4,900	0	
Contracts				0				0				0			
Great River Greening - Conservation Plan				0	33,200	28,503	28,503	0				0	28,503	0	
GRG Printing					5,000	5,882	5,882	0				0	5,882	0	
GRG Travel					1,800	918	918	0				0	918	0	
Project Manager Consultant - Brad Cobb				0				0	45,000	45,000	45,000	0	45,000	0	
Brad Cobb Travel				0				0	5,000	4,693	4,693	0	4,693	0	
Land acquisition	900,200	899,590	899,590	0				0				0	899,590	0	
Professional Services for Acq. (Coming from Land Acq. Line)	0	5,614	5,614	0				0				0	5,614	0	
COLUMN TOTAL	\$900,200	\$905,204	\$905,204	\$0	\$40,000	\$35,303	\$35,303	0	\$59,800	\$59,493	\$59,493	\$307	\$1,000,000	\$0	
** an additional \$4,697 has been raised by the Green Corridor Fund at SWIF to fulfill this commitment.															

FY 08 LCCMR Minnesota River Valley Green Corridor Project

Legend

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
|  | FY 08, LCCMR Acquisition/Donations |  | Lower Sioux Reservation |
|  | Wildlife Management Areas |  | Historical Society |
|  | State Parks |  | River Valley Rec Club |
|  | Scientific and Natural Areas |  | Morgan Sportsman Club |
|  | County Parks |  | Grant-In-Aid Snowmobile Trails |
|  | AMA |  | Water Access Sites |
| | |  | Historic Sites |

