

Trust Fund 2008 and 2009 Work Program

Date of Report:	2/1/09	
Date of Next Status Report:	8/1/09	
	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009
Date of Work program Approval:	June 10, 2008	June xx, 2009
Project Completion Date:	June, 30 2010	June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase IV-Friends of the Mississippi River (2.1)
 Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.3)

Project Manager: Tom Lewanski
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Location: Within mapped focus area in the counties of Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, and Washington.

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Appropriation:	\$92,000	\$90,000	\$182,000
Minus Amount Spent:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equal Balance:	\$92,000	\$90,000	\$182,000

Legal Citation: ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a)2.1

2008 Appropriation Language:

\$3,150,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fourth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,915,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,235,000 is for agreements as follows: \$475,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$92,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$111,000 with Great River Greening; \$225,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$107,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. 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 as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The

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

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subdivision 4(f)2.3

2009 Appropriation Language:

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fifth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$2,185,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,190,000 is for agreements as follows: \$380,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$90,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$155,000 with Great River Greening; \$250,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$90,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. 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 as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. 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. To the maximum extent practical, consistent with contractual easement or fee acquisition obligations, the recipients shall utilize staff resources to identify future projects and shall maximize the implementation of biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

M.L. 2008

FMR will restore and/or enhance about 125 acres of significant habitat within scientifically identified and prioritized focus areas in the greater Metropolitan Region.

M.L. 2009

FMR will work with both public and private landowners to restore and/or enhance 50 acres of significant habitat using MeCC phase V funding. This funding will enable FMR to leverage non-state funding to restore an additional 30 acres of significant habitat.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF (02/01/09):

M.L. 2008

FMR has not begun any restoration projects. However, we have identified several projects that we will begin once we have completed phase III or upon receiving permission to begin phase IV before completing phase III.

M.L. 2009

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

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

Result 2: Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat:

Description:

M.L. 2008

FMR will work with both public and private landowners to restore and/or enhance 100 acres of significant habitat using MWC IV funding and an additional 25 acres of significant habitat using other funding for a total of 125 acres, which may include the restoration and/or enhancement of prairie, oak savanna, deciduous forest and/or wetland communities. Techniques that will be employed to restore and enhance these areas will be based on the specific requirements of each project site to be chosen, but may include: soil preparation (spraying, burning, disking, dragging), seed drilling, mowing, prescribed burning, spot spraying, installation of native plants, and removal of invasive plant species.

These restoration and/or enhancement activities will be targeted to: See Exhibit 1 for a list of targeted projects and associated activities.

M.L. 2009

FMR will work with both public and private landowners to restore and/or enhance 50 acres of significant habitat using MeCC phase V funding. This funding will enable FMR to leverage non-state funding to restore an additional 30 acres of significant habitat.

Specific habitat types that may be restored and/or enhanced include prairie, oak savanna, deciduous forest and/or wetland communities. Techniques that will be employed to restore and enhance these areas will be based on the specific requirements of each project site to be chosen, but may include: soil preparation (spraying, burning, disking, dragging), seed drilling or broadcasting, mowing, prescribed burning, spot spraying, installation of native plants, and removal of invasive plant species. Vendors will complete some of the restoration techniques. Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis. We will consider contracting with the Minnesota Conservation Corps when appropriate.

Guidelines for project selection will include but will not be limited to: ecological importance of site (based on size, habitat quality, buffering of existing high quality habitat, water quality benefits, & connectivity to other natural areas), matching funds, and partner interest and commitment. Priority will be given to projects on public land and on private land that has been permanently protected through a conservation easement. Prior to the initiation of restoration activities on private land, a landowner agreement will be secured.

Selection of native plants and seeds will follow the LCCMR's guidelines as outlined in the brochure: Native Plant Material-Local vegetation ecotype sequencing. Seed mix selection will be based on the DNR's native plant community field guides.

Ecological management plans will be developed prior to initiation of restoration activities. These management plans contain information regarding existing

conditions & issues, goals, activities designed to pursue these goals, preliminary costs associated with the activities, and a timeline.

These restoration and/or enhancement activities will be targeted to: See Exhibit 1 for a list of targeted projects and associated activities.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2:

	M.L. 2008	M.L. 2009	Total
Trust Fund Budget:	\$92,000	\$90,000	\$182,000
Amount Spent:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Balance:	\$92,000	\$90,000	\$182,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget	Status
1. M.L. 2008 -100 acres restored and/or enhanced (<i>partner acres and other funding not counted here</i>)	6/30/2010	\$92,000	n/a
2. M.L. 2009 - 50 acres restored and/or enhanced (<i>partner acres and other funding not counted here</i>)	6/30/2011	\$90,000	n/a

Final Completion Date: M.L. 2008 = 6/30/2010; M.L. 2009 = 6/30/2011

Result Status as of 2/1/2009:

M.L. 2008

FMR has not begun any restoration projects. However, we have identified several projects that we will begin once we have completed phase III or upon receiving permission to begin phase IV before completing phase III.

M.L. 2008

N/A

Result Status as of 8/1/2009:

Result Status as of 2/1/2010:

Result Status as of 8/1/2010:

Result Status as of 2/1/2011:

Final Report Summary (June 30, 2011):

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

M.L. 2008

Staff or Contract Services: \$8,000

Equipment:

Development: \$

Restoration: \$ 83,700 (for contractor services, plants, seeds, and supplies)

Other: travel: \$300

Acquisition, including easements: \$

TOTAL 2008 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 92,000

M.L. 2009

Personnel: \$12,420.00
Contracts: \$77,000.00
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:
Acquisition, including easements:
Travel: \$580.00
Other:
TOTAL 2009 TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$90,000

VI. OTHER FUNDS & PARTNERS/ PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

M.L. 2008

Metro Conservation Corridor partners, private landowners, local governments, and regional, state and federal agencies.

M.L. 2009

Metro Conservation Corridor partners, private landowners, local governments, and regional, state and federal agencies.

B. Other Funds Proposed To Be Spent During The Project Period:

M.L. 2008

We estimate that FMR will leverage approximately \$30,000 in non-state funds from landowners and project funding partners and \$50,000 in other state funding.

M.L. 2009

We estimate that FMR will leverage approximately \$70,000 in non-state funds during this phase of the project. FMR will bring \$30,000 in private funds, \$30,000 in federal funds, and \$10,000 from LGUs and/or landowners.

C. Spending History:

M.L. 2008: Metro Wildlife Corridors I, II & III - \$235,000

M.L. 2009: Metro Wildlife Corridors I, II, III, IV - \$327,000

D. Time:

M.L. 2008: 2 years. June 10, 2008 – June 30, 2010

M.L. 2009: 2 years. June xx, 2009 – June 30, 2011

E. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

FMR will conduct restoration activities on 100 acres (utilizing M.L. 2008 Metro Wildlife Corridors funding) and 50 acres (utilizing M.L. 2009 Metro Wildlife Corridors funding) of significant habitat. FMR is a place based conservation organization that focuses its conservation work in the south metro area. Our goal is assist both MeCC and other partners in protecting, restoring, and enhancing important wildlife areas in the Twin Cities Metro Area. We practice retail conservation. That is, we reach out to

individual private and public landowners in the designated corridors and engage them in the broader goal of developing a system of interconnected habitat corridors in the Metro area and throughout the state. Because FMR is focused in the Twin Cities we can build strong, long-standing relationships with conservation partners and landowners. Our goal is to stay engaged in all of our projects over the long-term to ensure continuity and that the habitat values are maintained and improved over time.

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 1st each year, starting with February 1, 2009. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2010 for the 2008 appropriation as requested by the LCCMR and a final work program report and associated products for the 2009 appropriation will be submitted no later than August 1, 2011.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2008 Projects			
Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase IV-Friends of the Mississipi			
Project Manager Name: Tom Lewanski			
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 92,000			
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget			
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable			
2007 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 2</u> <u>Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>
BUDGET ITEM	Restoration		
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	\$ 8,000		\$ 8,000
Contracts			
Professional/technical <i>(with private contractors to provide restoration activities such as burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, etc.)</i>	\$ 81,700		\$ 81,700
Other direct operating costs <i>(plant material)</i>	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$ 300		\$ 300
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 92,000	\$ -	\$ 92,000

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects -			
Project Title: <i>Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V – Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat (2.3)</i>			
Project Manager Name: <i>Tom Lewanski</i>			
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 90,000			
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 2 Budget:</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u> <i>(date)</i>	<u>Balance</u> <i>(date)</i>
BUDGET ITEM	Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat:		
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits <i>(List individual names, amount budgeted and %FTE; add rows as needed)</i>			
Conservation Director (2% FTE)	\$2,850.00	\$0.00	\$2,850.00
Ecologist (2) (6% FTE)	\$8,481.00	\$0.00	\$8,481.00
Business Manager (.5% FTE)	\$1,089.00	\$0.00	\$1,089.00
Total Personnel	\$12,420.00	\$0.00	\$12,420.00
Contracts			
Professional/technical. <i>Vendors to provide restoration activities such as burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis.)</i>	\$77,000	\$0	\$77,000.00
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$580	\$0	\$580.00
COLUMN TOTAL	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000

2008 and 2009 (Phase IV and V) MeCC Project Funds

Project Name	Appropriation Year	Ecological significance	Natural community or goal of restoration activities	Restoration activities under this appropriation (Actual activities may vary from those planned due to adaptive management approach to the management of the	Acreage associated with these activities under this appropriation	Status of restoration activities associated with this appropriation (reported as percentage
Hastigs Riverflats	2008	This site is situated along the Mississippi River and was identified by the DNR County Biological Survey, the Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Planning Process, and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program as containing ecologically significant natural communities.	This project is multifaceted. It contains floodplain forest, lakeshore, and prairie restoration components.	Exotic brush control	15	
	2009			Exotic plant removal. Prescribed burn.	30	
Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area.	2008	This site is situated along the Mississippi River and contains high quality natural communities as identified by the DNR County Biological Survey (woodland, prairie, wetlands). It was also identified as ecologically significant by the Northern Dakota County Greenway planning process and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program.	Oak woodland and prairie	Exotic plant removal.	20	
	2009			Prescribed prairie Native prairie seeding	15 5	
Rosemount Wildlife Preserve		2008	This site contains oak woodland and wetlands that are embedded in a larger forested area. It was also identified as ecologically significant by the Northern Dakota County Greenway planning process and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program.	Prairie & oak woodland	Control exotic brush, tend native plantings, prescribed prairie burn	13
	2009	Exotic brush control, woodland burn			10	
Sand Coulee	2008	This site contains very high quality native prairie. It is the largest native prairie remaining in Dakota County. Thirteen rare animals and plants have been documented for the site. The Sand Coulee was identified by the DNR County Biological Survey, the Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Planning Process, and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program as containing ecologically significant natural communities.	Prairie and associated woodland	Prairie restoration - soil prep, seeding	8	
	2009			Exotic plant control - herbicide, biocontrol, mechanical.	20	
Vermillion River Riparian Habitat- wilmar		2008	This river is a major tributary to the Mississippi River. The Vermillion River is the last remaining trophy trout stream in an urban area in the U.S. This river was identified by the MNDNR and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program as containing ecologically significant natural communities.	prairie & riparian woodland	Prairie restoration - soil prep, seeding	30
	Exotic brush control				15	

2008 and 2009 (Phase IV and V) MeCC Project Funds

	2009	Farmland and Natural Area Program as being ecologically significant.		Exotic brush control. Prairie restoration management - herbicide, burn.	40	
Mississippi/Vermillion Bottoms	2008	This site was selected because it serves as the most westerly portion of the large Mississippi River floodplain forest complex that exits between Hastings and Red Wing. This site is situated along the Mississippi River and was identified by the DNR County Biological Survey, the Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Planning Process, and the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program as containing ecologically significant natural communities.	Floodplain forest	Control exotic brush and herbaceous plants.	30	
	2009			Exotic plant control, Install native shrubs and forbs.	20	
Ravenna Block	2008	This site contains a relatively large block of woodland and is situated near the top of the watershed of two intermittent streams that flow to the Vermillion River. It was identified as containing significant natural resources by the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas Program and the Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Planning Process.	Oak forest	Exotic plant removal (Almquist). Prescribed grassland burn (Gurtis).	50	
	2009			Exotic plant removal, prescribed woodland burn (Almquist); Exotic brush removal (Gelhar).	50	
St. Croix River Bluffs	2008	This riparian area contains high quality natural communities. Specific sites in this area were identified by the DNR's county biological survey process and the Washington County Land & Water Legacy Program.	Oak forest	nothing		
	2009			Exotic brush removal.	15	
Mississippi River Gorge	2008	This site, on the Mississippi River, forms the boundary between St. Paul and Minneapolis, and does contain ecologically important natural communities as identified by the County Biological Survey process. Much of the land at this site is public parkland.	Floodplain forest, oak woodland	Exotic brush removal. Install native shrubs	12	
Vermillion River watershed	2008	Upper reaches of South Creek, tributary of Vermillion. FNAP site.	Oak Forest	Exotic brush removal.	20	
	2009			Prescribed burn Install native shrubs.	20	