

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: June 1, 2009
Date of Next Progress Report: January 1, 2010
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. **PROJECT TITLE:** Minnesota Farm Bill Assistance Project

Project Manager: Tabor Hoek
Affiliation: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Mailing Address: PO Box 267
City / State / Zip: Marshall, MN 56258
Telephone Number: 507-537-7260
E-mail Address: tabor.hoek@state.mn.us
Fax Number: 507-537-6368
Web Site Address: www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Location: *Statewide*

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

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4i

Appropriation Language:

\$1,000,000 is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to provide funding for technical staff to assist in the implementation provisions of conservation programs including the federal farm bill conservation programs. Documentation must be provided on the number of landowner contacts, program participation, federal dollars leveraged, quantifiable criteria, and measurement of the improvements to water quality and habitat.

II. **PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

The MN Farm Bill Assistance Project is a joint effort of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), MN Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), MN Pheasants Forever (PF) and MN Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). The MN Farm Bill Assistance project stresses the link between the land, landowner and available programs to provide abundant wildlife habitat and clean water by providing 16 full time staff equivalents on the ground working with landowners. Numerous federal state and local programs exist for native prairies and wetlands. The goal of these 16 FTE's will be to establish or restore 50,000 acres of grassland and wetlands during the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1:

Assistance on enrolling, retaining, and managing 50,000 acres of critical private grasslands, and wetlands.

Description:

This project will focus on enrollment, retention and management of 50,000 acres of native grasslands and wetlands over the two year project. This activity will occur on private land within the 23 million acre agricultural zone. Management will occur on lands already established and in the greatest need based upon threat to quality of vegetation and location. New land enrollment as well as management activities will be targeted within key geographic areas, based on local priorities such as: DNR Working Lands Target Areas, CRP critical lands study, Riparian Buffer Initiative, RIM-WRP priority mapping, TMDL areas and local water management plans to name a few. Strategic staffing of 16 FTE's will be done within individual SWCD's through a competitive application process.

Process:

The Farm Bill Assistance Committee governs over this project and is made up of one member from DNR, BWSR and Pheasants Forever. This committee will make initial project selections by July 1, 2009. There is potential to build upon this initial listing with available funding as the project evolves and need arises. Staff positions will be selected for funding based upon historical performance, location within DNR Working Lands areas, resource opportunity/need, ability to provide match to grant, and goals identified by each applicant on their application. Upon recommendation of the committee the BWSR will enter into a contractual relationship with successful applicants starting July 1, 2009. These contracts with SWCD's will reimburse 70% of the cost for two years of 16 FTE's. The remaining 30% will be provided as cash match from local sources. For purposes of this project, a maximum FTE cost of \$45,000/year has been put in place.

Outcomes:

Participants will complete monthly progress reports that will track: hours spent, landowners contacted, acres enrolled or managed by resource type. An estimate of federal leveraged funds will also be included with each status report. At the end of each 6 month period, a summary will be prepared and submitted by the SWCD for reimbursement from BWSR. BWSR has been collecting this data since 2002 and will modify that process to accommodate the requirements of this work program.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$1,000,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 1,000,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Request for Proposals from SWCD's	June 30, 2009	\$0
2. Contracts Implemented to Employ 16 FTE's for 2 years	July 30, 2009	\$1,000,000
3. Enrollment or management of 50,000 acres	June 30, 2011	\$0

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2011

Result Status as of: January 31, 2010

Result Status as of: July 31, 2010

Result Status as of: January 31, 2011

Result Status as of: July 31, 2011

Final Report Summary: July 31, 2011

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET:

Contracts: \$ 1,000,000 for Contracts with SWCD's for employment of 16 FTE's.

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$1,000,000

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

MN BWSR, MN DNR, MN Pheasants Forever, and MN SWCD's

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project creates and employment opportunity for 16 FTE's over the next 2 years and is an investment in our natural resources. The investment in 16 FTE's leverages an estimated \$75,000,000 in federal and state conservation program payments to MN landowners. This project is necessary to continue progress towards meeting Minnesota's prairie and wetland restoration needs as identified in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, July 2008 (SCPP).

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:

See Attachment B (to be filled in by July 1, 2009)

D. Spending History:

During the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009 there was a cash total of \$2,216,728 plus an estimated \$400,000 of inkind.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

Data is collected on time spent, acres impacted and landowners contacted on a monthly basis and is available to the project partners and participants. The overall status of conservation programs in MN is available at www.bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/COENROL.XLS

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than January 2010, July 2010, and January 2011. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment B:

FY 2010 PHASE VIII FARM BILL ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS
6-24-09 Final Committee Recommendation

COUNTIES	Recommended 2010 % FTE	Phase IX Contract			Total Staff Budget	Carry Over
		State	SWCD	Local Org.		
Working Lands						
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
SUBTOTALS	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other						
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
SUBTOTALS	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTALS	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2009 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)

Project Title: Minnesota Farm Bill Assistance Project						
Project Manager Name: Tabor Hoek						
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 1,000,000						
2009 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent	Balance			
		<i>(date)</i>	<i>(date)</i>			
	<i>Assistance on 50,000ac. of critical private land projects.</i>					
BUDGET ITEM						
Contracts with SWCDs for Staff	1,000,000					
COLUMN TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000			