

## 2010 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Work Program

**Date of Report:** December 10, 2009  
**Date of Next Status Report:** August 1, 2010  
**Date of Work program Approval:**  
**Project Completion Date:** June 30, 2012

**I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase IV  
Supplemental Overall Summary**

**Project Manager:** Sarah Strommen  
**Affiliation:** Minnesota Land Trust  
**Mailing Address:** 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240  
**City / State / Zip:** St. Paul, MN 55114  
**Telephone Number:** 651-647-9590  
**E-mail Address:** sstrommen@mnland.org  
**FAX Number:** 651-647-9769  
**Web Page address:** www.mnland.org

**Location:** Within mapped corridors (see attached map) in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, LeSueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington and Wright.

<b>Total Trust Fund Project Budget:</b>	<b>Trust Fund Appropriation:</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,000</b>
	<b>Minus Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
	<b>Equal Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,000</b>

**Legal Citation: ML 2010, Chp. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(g)**

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,750,000 is added to Laws 2009, chapter 143, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph (f), from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$1,750,000 is for agreements as follows: \$890,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$485,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$325,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$50,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for 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.

## **II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) partnership is a collaboration of nine partners organized to accelerate protection and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands.

This phase is supplemental to Phase 5 of this project and is focused on unique opportunities that are not funded through prior phases. This supplemental phase includes only four of the nine partners.

Specifically, the partners will achieve the following results:

### **Result /Activity 1: Database Development, Project Tracking, Mapping and Coordination**

No funding for this result is included in this supplemental phase.

### **Result/Activity 2: Restore or enhance 50 acres of habitat along the Minnesota River**

Lands to be restored include wetland, oak savanna, grassland, and floodplain forest habitat along the Minnesota River within new units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in LeSueur, Scott and/or Sibley counties. All restoration work will be permanently protected and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will be open to the public. (*Friends of the Minnesota Valley*)

### **Result/Activity 3: Protect at least 174 acres of habitat through fee acquisition and conservation easement acquisition**

Specifically, this result includes:

1. Fee title acquisition of 100 acres of significant habitat in the Minnesota River Valley within LeSueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties. After restoration, lands will be donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for management as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. (*Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.*)
2. Fee title acquisition of 34 acres of lakeshore, fen, wetlands and forested habitat in Scott and/or Chisago counties. Protection projects will enhance currently protected lands. Land will be owned by state and local governments. (*The Trust for Public Land*)

3. Acquisition of 1-2 perpetual conservation easements, protecting 40-80 acres of high-quality forest and wetland habitats, that will prohibit land uses that harm habitat and other conservation values. (*Minnesota Land Trust*)

**Result/Activity 4: Provide Community Conservation Assistance/Outreach**

No funding for this result is included in this supplemental phase.

**III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF:**

**IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:**

**RESULT/ACTIVITY 2: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat**

**Description:** One MeCC partner will restore and/or enhance 50 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat within the MeCC mapped corridors of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. All restoration and enhancement work will be permanently protected and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration and management plans will be developed prior to restoration work. An additional 25 acres will be restored/enhanced using other non-state funds. For further detail, please see Friends of the Minnesota Valley’s individual work program.

**Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 2:**

<b>ENRTF Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
<b>Amount Spent:</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>

Deliverable/Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore/Enhance 50 acres	6/30/2012	\$50,000

**Result Completion Date:** 6/30/2012.

**Result Status as of February 2011:**

**Result Status as of August 2011:**

**Result Status as of February 2012:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**RESULT 3: Acquire Significant Habitat**

**Description:** Three MeCC partners will protect at least 174 acres of critical habitat or major landscape connections within the scientifically determined MeCC mapped corridors through the acquisition of fee title land and conservation easements. Work

will focus on high-priority, urgent opportunities that supplement and enhance the work done under prior phases of this grant. An additional 100 acres will be protected using other, non-state funds. For further detail, please see individual work programs for Minnesota Land Trust, Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.

**Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 3:**

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 1,750,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$ 0  
**Balance:** \$ 1,750,000

<b>Deliverable/Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Protect 174 acres of significant habitat	6/30/2012	\$1,750,000

**Result Completion Date:** 6/30/2012.

**Result Status as of February 2011:**

**Result Status as of August 2011:**

**Result Status as of February 2012:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:**

Please see also the attached Table B.

**Personnel:** \$ 25,000

**Contracts:** \$ 35,000

**Equipment/Tools/Supplies:** \$ 10,000

**Acquisition Including Permanent Easements:** 1,700,000

**Easement Stewardship:** \$ 30,000

**TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 1,800,000**

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

**VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Partners included in this supplemental phase include Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Land Trust, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust Inc. We also will closely coordinate with the other MeCC partners including Friends of the Mississippi River, Great River Greening, DNR Metro Greenways, DNR Fish and Wildlife, and DNR SNA Program.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, launched in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This 16 county area is in the midst of expansion and development that causes habitat loss and fragmentation and permanently converts high quality natural areas to urban uses.

The work of the MeCC partnership is targeted within *science-based corridors* and is guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. This project addresses the following recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Additionally, this project addresses our state's needs to:

- Protect and enhance critical habitat for a vast variety wildlife and rare plant species, including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need."
- Strengthen our community's resilience to climate change.

**C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:** We estimate that at least \$200,000 of other state funds and \$708,000 of other non-state funds will be spent on acquisition and restoration activities during the project period. Additional leverage may come from donated value of conservation easements, but the specific value is difficult to predict at this time.

**D. Spending History:**

Phase I (2003) - \$4,850,000 ETF  
Phase II (2005) - \$3,530,000 ETF  
Phase III (2007) - \$2,500,000 ETF  
Phase IV (2008) - \$3,150,000 ETF  
Phase V (2009) - \$3,375,000 ETF

**VII. DISSEMINATION:** As projects are completed, individual partners will be encouraged to publicize accomplishments through press releases, organization newsletters and websites.

**VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:** Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 1 and August 1. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2012 as requested by the LCCMR.

**IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA**



**Metro Conservation Corridors 2010 Phase V Supplemental  
Table A: Budget and Accomplishment Summary**

Result/Activity	Partner	Project Funding								Accomplishments				
		LCCMR Funds	LCCMR Funds Spent	LCCMR Funds Balance (as of __)	Other State Funds Proposed	Other Non-State Funds Proposed	Other State Funds Spent	Other Non-State Funds Spent	Total Project Funds Spent	LCCMR Acres Proposed	LCCMR Acres Completed	Other Funds Acres Proposed	Other Funds Acres Completed	Total Project Acres Completed
<b>2. Restore &amp; Enhancement Significant Habitat</b>														
2.4. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project	Friends of MN Valley	\$ 50,000				\$ 25,000			\$ -	50		25		-
SUBTOTAL		\$ 50,000				\$ 25,000			\$ -	50.0		25.0		-
<b>3. Acquire Significant Habitat</b>														
3.1 Critical Lands Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land	\$ 915,000				\$ 458,000			\$ -	34		0		-
3.2. Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 485,000			\$200,000				\$ -	40		0		-
3.3. Expansion of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$ 350,000				\$ 225,000			\$ -	100		100		-
SUBTOTAL		\$ 1,750,000				\$ 683,000			\$ -	174		100		-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,800,000</b>				<b>\$ 200,000</b>	<b>\$ 708,000</b>		<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 224</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>0</b>	

## Metro Conservation Corridors 2010 Phase V Supplemental Table B: Budget Detail

Activity	Partners	LCCMR Funding					TOTAL	Budget Explanation (staff/contract services, development, equipment, other)
		Personnel	Contracts	Supplies	Acquisition	Other		
<b>2. Restore &amp; Enhance Significant Habitat</b>								
2.4. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project.	Friends of MinnesotaValley	\$ 5,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,000			\$ 50,000	Staff: 0.07 FTE; Contracts:earthwork contractors to install water control structures, build earthen dams, break drainage tile lines, field prep, seed installation, invasive species removal, etc.; Supplies: native seed and trees, water control structures, herbicide, etc. 50 acres restored.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 5,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
<b>3. Acquire Significant Habitat</b>								
3.1 Critical Lands Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land				\$ 915,000		\$ 915,000	Fee title and conservation easement land acquisition of 34 acres
3.2. Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 20,000			\$ 435,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 485,000	Staff: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits (FICA,FUTA. SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) and related costs for Conservation directors or other land protection staff and Staff attorney and other support staff; Acquisition: includes purchase price of easement(s); title work, title insurance; maps, GIS; film; appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.; Other: \$30,000 for easement stewardship. 40-80 acres protected.
3.3. Expansion of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.				\$ 350,000		\$ 350,000	Fee title acquisition of 100 acres
SUBTOTAL		\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,750,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,700,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,800,000</b>	