

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Subd: 04i3.5

Project Title: 3.5 - MeCC 6 - Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

Category: D. Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 300,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 yrs, July 2011 - June 2014

Other Non-State Funds (secured): \$ 0

Summary:

Projects that face high risk of development, provide angler access, and afford environmental protection of the shoreline - securing fee or easement on approximately 0.6 mile of critical shoreline habitat.

Name: Mike Halverson

Sponsoring Organization: DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

Saint Paul MN 55155

Telephone Number: 651-259-5209

Email mike.halverson@state.mn.us

Web Ad <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

Location:

Region: Metro

Ecological Section: Western Superior Uplands (212K), Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M)

County Name: Dakota, Washington

City / Township: N/A

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 6 – 3.5 – DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

Project Manager: Mike Halverson
Affiliation: MN DNR – Fish and Wildlife
Contact Phone: 651-259-5209
Contact Email: Mike.Halverson@state.mn.us

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will focus on habitat linkage projects that have the following characteristics: high risk of development, angler access, environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, and access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. These acquisitions would be from willing landowners for long-term stewardship; final acreage protection as part of this project will ultimately depend on landowner willingness to sell key parcels. Parcels will be acquired as either fee title or angling and management easements, and will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).

Any easements acquired will be trout stream angling and management easements which provide angler access to trout streams that are otherwise not accessible by the public. These easements also provide access for DNR Fisheries crews to implement stream habitat improvement where needed, conduct stream assessments, perform creel surveys, and evaluate stocking efforts.

Trout stream easement widths are typically 132 feet in width, extending 66 feet each direction from the centerline of the stream. Easement values will be determined by using a valuation formula established in MS 84.0272, Subd. 2. The majority of trout stream easements are of high quality habitat and do not require habitat restoration. New management may include in-stream habitat enhancement, shoreline habitat protection, signage and access (parking and stiles).

Additional dollars for monitoring are not needed for parcels acquired through this project. A baseline property report will be prepared for each easement parcel that is acquired, and monitoring will become part of annual management activities. Historically trout streams easements have been informally monitored on a regular basis, both by Fisheries crews and by anglers themselves. Detailed monitoring of individual parcels will now be included in periodic stream surveys and assessments. Acquired easements will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).

DNR incurs a number of one-time costs upon acquisition of a conservation easement, including costs for preparation of a baseline report to document the condition of the property, as well as recurring costs for periodic monitoring of the easement. Costs may vary widely by easement and depend on factors such as size, location or specific easement terms. Fiscal requirements for long-term stewardship of DNR's conservation easements, including an estimate of periodic monitoring costs, will be included in a report to be submitted in February 2011 per the Trust Fund 2008 Work Program for DNR's Conservation Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Program Plan, ML 2008, Chap. 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(h).

The DNR is in the process of preparing a 10 year budget analysis of the departments AMA land management needs which will be submitted to the legislature by November 15, 2010 (MN Session Laws 2010, Chap. 36, Art. 14 Sec. 74) . This report will provide us with the detailed information necessary to determine the amount necessary to manage, restore and maintain these units. Once this information is presented we will update this information in the work plan.

This request is driven by a recent report submitted to the DNR entitled “Minnesota’s Aquatic Management Area Acquisition Plan 2008-2033”. The planning committee has identified a need to acquire an additional 1,100 miles of AMA lake and stream critical habitat over the next 25 years to provide sustainable populations of fish and other aquatic species and greater opportunities for angling recreation for future generations. The report recommends accomplishing this goal by the year 2032.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Land Acquisition Budget: \$300,000

This project will secure fee title and/or easements on approximately 35 acres, with 0.6 miles of shoreline, and leverage about 15 acres of acquisition through partner funds. Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will both build on the existing shoreline habitat and provide angler access. This request includes \$20,000 for professional services to be used for appraisals, legal fees, surveys, environmental assessments, closings, etc. Approximately \$5,000 will be used to insure that all parcels meet minimum maintenance standards, including but not limited to signage and parking.

Projects may occur anywhere on Browns Creek in Washington County or Vermillion River in Dakota County, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 50 acres and 0.8 miles of critical shoreline habitat.

Additional dollars are not needed for monitoring of new easement parcels. A monitoring program is being developed that will incorporate monitoring as part of a DNR fish population survey and assessment program, which is already in place.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:	Trust Fund Budget:	\$300,000
	Amount Spent:	\$ 0
	Balance:	\$300,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 0.6 miles of critical shoreline	6/30/2013

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Metropolitan Conservation Corridor partnership, as well as local units of government, fishing groups, landowners, etc.

B. Timeline Requirements

We propose a two year grant beginning July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2013.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is part of a long-term acquisition strategy identified in “Minnesota’s Aquatic Management area Acquisition Plan 2008-2033”. This plan came as a report to DNR – Fish and Wildlife, focusing on “Shoreline Habitat, Angling, and Clean Water For Our Future”. Minnesota’s AMA Plan is listed as one of the Land Protection Options (2A) in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

An annual monitoring program for existing trout stream easements is currently being developed. Easement monitoring will be incorporated into a fish population survey and assessment program that is already in place. Baseline information and monitoring will be immediately implemented for parcels acquired under this proposal. Habitat improvement is an important component for trout stream management and will be implemented as needed.

2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

MeCC 6 - 3.5 - DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET - Two years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Funds will acquire 0.6 mile of fee title or permanent easement within approximately 35 acres, which will be held by DNR as Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs).	\$275,000
Professional Services: Legal Fees, survey costs, negotiations, closings, etc. Anticipated to be approximately 7.5% of total acquisition.	\$20,000
Initial Development: Signs, parking, etc.	\$5,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$300,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Partner funds and donations will acquire 0.3 miles of permanent easement or fee title on approximately 15 acres, which will be held by DNR	\$150,000	Pending Fundraising, donation of value, partners
In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ -	N/A
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): DNR Fish and Wildlife currently has a balance of \$300,000 from a 2009 ETF allotment that includes this project area. Identified acquisition parcels have completed appraisals, which are currently being reviewed. Offers will then be made.	\$300,000 Remains	Projects being appraised
Funding History: The listed ETF appropriations were specifically for MeCC project areas.	\$330,000 03 ETF \$290,000 05 ETF \$172,000 07 ETF \$400,000 08 ETF \$350,000 09 ETF	Completed Completed Completed Completed \$300,000 Remains

2011-2012 Acquisition List for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Proposal

Project Title: Mike Halverson

Project Manager Name: MeCC 6 - 3.5 - DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

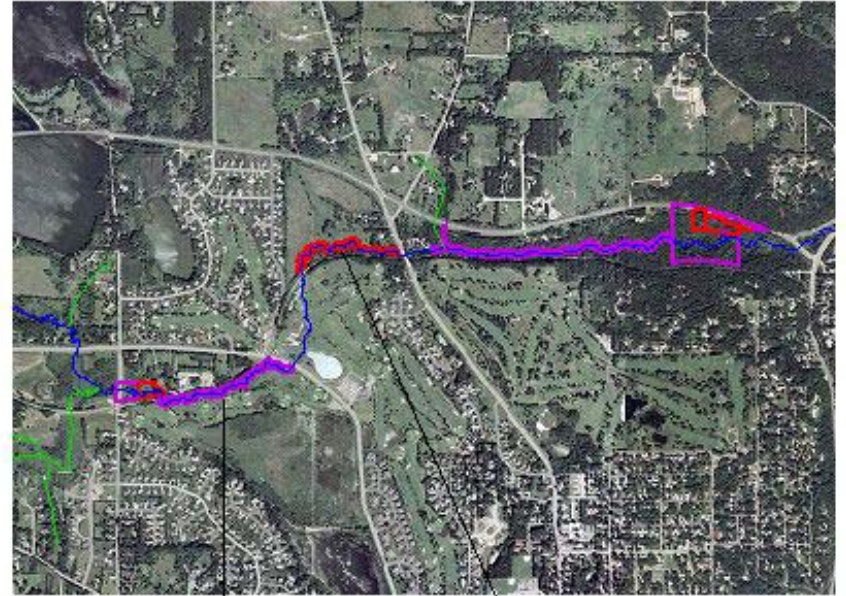
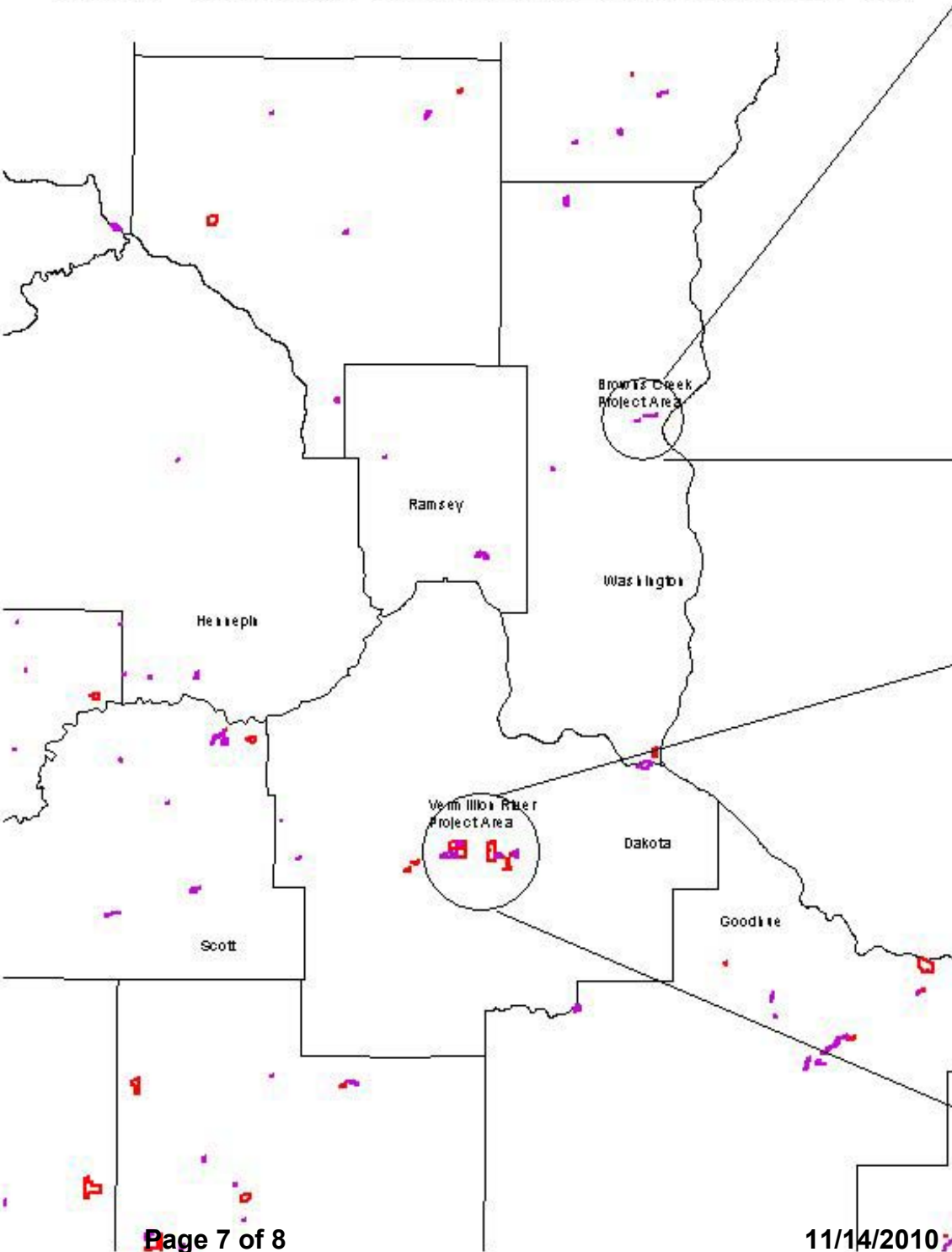
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \$ Request: \$300.00

Final Title Holder(s): MN - DNR - Fish & Wildlife

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee-Title OR Conservation Easement)	County	Estimated # of Acres	Geographical Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)				Status
					Latitude	Longitude	UTM-X	UTM-Y	
1	Vermillion River AMA, P9	Fee Title	Dakota	50	44.6623	-93.0036			Being Processed
2	S. Br. Vermillion R. AMA, P1	Fee Title	Dakota	66	44.6537	-93.0080			Being Appraised
3	S. Br. Vermillion R. AMA, P2	Angling Easement	Dakota	3.4	44.6487	-93.0120			Proposal
4	Browns Cr AMA, P6A	Angling Easement	Washington	1.06	45.0759	-92.8318			Proposal
5	Browns Cr AMA, P6B	Angling Easement	Washington	0.57	45.0757	-92.8324			Proposal
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

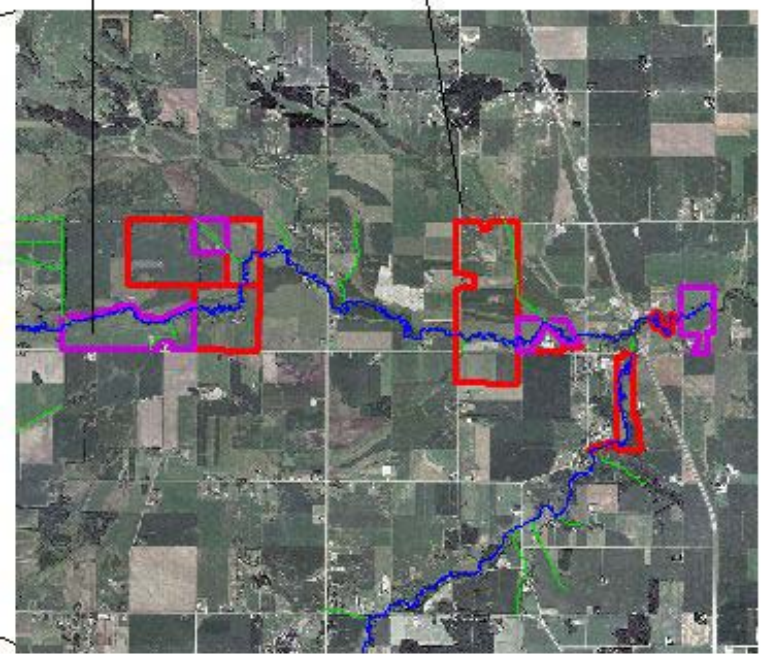
NOTES: Vermillion River AMA, P9 will be either Fee title or Angling Easement - preference would be fee title.

MeCC - DNR Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisition 3.5



Existing AMA

AMA Acquisitions



AMA Description

Aquatic management areas (AMAs) may be established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses. MS 86A.05 Subd. 14(a)

Guiding Principles

- Conserve critical shoreline habitat for all fish and wildlife species
- Conserve vital fish spawning and rearing areas
- Provide angling and management access corridors on trout and warm-water streams
- Provide non-motorized angler access on lakes and streams
- Preserve examples of healthy shoreline habitats as maps for future restoration of disturbed sites.

Project Manager Qualifications

Mike Halverson, Project Manager

Mike Halverson is a 33-year employee of the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Twelve years were spent doing Fisheries fieldwork in SW Minnesota, eleven years as an Aquatic Plant Management Specialist in the Metro Region, and the past 10 years as statewide Fish & Wildlife Land Acquisition Coordinator.

Mike has a BS degree in Biology from Mankato State University. Accomplishments throughout his career have been centered around aquatic habitat.