



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan

**Date of Status Update:**

**Date of Next Status Update:** 1/1/2012

**Date of Work Plan Approval:** 8/11/2011

**Project Completion Date:** 6/30/2014

**Is this an amendment request?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title:** Mississippi River Central Minnesota Conservation Planning

**Project Manager:** Dennis Fuchs

**Affiliation:** Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Address:** Marketplace Mall, 110 2nd Street S, Ste 128

**City:** Waite Park **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 56387

**Telephone Number:** (320) 251-7800 x3

**Email Address:** dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

**Web Address:**

**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Benton, Stearns

**Ecological Section Impacted:** Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	175,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	<u>0</u>
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	175,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 03n

**Appropriation Language:**

\$87,000 the first year and \$88,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District to develop and adopt river protection strategies in cooperation with local jurisdictions in the communities of the 26 miles of the Mississippi River between Benton and Stearns Counties. This appropriation must be matched by \$175,000 of nonstate cash or qualifying in-kind funds.

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Mississippi River Central Minnesota Conservation Planning

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY:**

From its Headwaters to the Twin Cities, the Mississippi River has benefited from coordinated management plans and community efforts to protect its water quality and shoreland habitat--except for 26-mile stretch in Central Minnesota. Starting in St. Cloud and stretching north through Stearns and Benton counties, this stretch is governed by 11 different jurisdictions (four cities, five townships and two counties). These communities presently have no uniform land use controls to protect the magnificent river they share. Yet they face significant population growth and development pressure which could significantly damage the health of the Mississippi River.

The goal of this project is to restore and protect the natural resource attributes of the Mississippi River and reduce habitat fragmentation along its banks in central Minnesota. The project will work with local units of government to develop and implement specific river protection policies, and will also work with individual landowners along the river to identify and implement sound shoreland management practices.

Local units of government will be offered workshops and technical assistance to implement policies, such as adopting a Natural Resource Overlay District along the river, which will protect the health of the Mississippi in the face of increased development pressure.

Local landowners who desire to restore or protect their Mississippi River shoreline property will be identified and prioritized for assistance by developing a landowner registry. They will be offered one-on-one, personalized assistance in identifying, funding, and implementing practices and projects which will reduce their impact on the River.

The public policies and landowner practices implemented as a result of this project will result in a healthier Mississippi River today and for decades to come.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of *January 31, 2012:***

**Project Status as of *July 15, 2012:***

**Project Status as of *January 30, 2013:***

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Adopt local and/or regional policies that increase river protection and restoration

**Description:** A Mississippi River Conservation Overlay District will be developed by and for local units of government and citizens. Technical assistance will be given to communities to fully implement river protection vision and goals found in their comprehensive or county water plans, through education, prioritization and adoption.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 88,600**

**Amount Spent: \$ 0**

**Balance: \$88,600**

**Activity Completion Date:**

Outcome	Completion	Budget
---------	------------	--------

	<b>Date</b>	
<b>1.</b> <i>In preparation for adoption of Mississippi River Conservation Overlay District, deliver three (3) workshops to local units of government each year (six total over length of project), delivered by subject experts which may include the following topics: Overlay districts, shoreland ordinances, incentives, low impact development standards, conservation design standards, long term land stewardship, economics of open space preservation, etc.</i>	June 30, 2012	\$8,650.00 (MRR \$6,750 & \$1,900 Tech experts)
<b>2.</b> <i>In preparation for adoption of Mississippi River Conservation Overlay District, deliver three (3) workshops to local units of government each year, delivered by subject experts which may include the following topics: Overlay districts, shoreland ordinances, incentives, low impact development standards, conservation design standards, long term land stewardship, economics of open space preservation, etc.</i>	June 30, 2013	\$8,450.00 (MRR \$6,750 & \$1,700 Tech experts)
<b>3.</b> <i>Work individually with each community to identify a commonality across jurisdictions. Develop outreach materials and post resource materials on project web site. (Year one funds)</i>	2011-2013	\$15,750.00 (MRR)
<b>4.</b> <i>Through adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding between land use authorities, or by coordination through the St. Cloud Area Joint Planning Board, or by other means, adopt a Mississippi River Conservation Overlay District.</i>	June 30, 2013	\$55,750.00 (\$15,750 MRR, \$40,000 Consultant)

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2012:**

**Activity Status as of July 15, 2012:**

**Activity Status as of January 30, 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

**ACTIVITY 2:** Increase the implementation of river conservation practices among shoreland property owners.

**Description:** The Mississippi River Renaissance Coordinator will work with landowners on an individual basis to identify their conservation needs, seek assistance on implementation of best management practices and discuss long term protection options. Riparian landowners will be prioritized utilizing the already completed natural resource inventory (NRI) to identify large parcels and high value natural resources areas.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 86,400**

**Amount Spent: \$ 0**

**Balance: \$86,400**

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>1.</b> <i>Complete a Landowner Registry data base of landowners along the river corridor. Utilize the already complete Natural Resource Inventory along with parcel size to prioritize 100 Mississippi corridor properties with the highest natural resource value. The data gathered through personal conversations with river landowners would include: landowner name and contact information, past landowner activities that have supported river health, the landowner's immediate conservation goals and needs, barriers to implementing</i>	50 landowners, FY 2011-2012 (June 30,2012),	\$38,400
	50 landowners FY 2012-2013 (June 30, 2013)	\$35,700

<i>conservation measures and potential actions that they could take to protect or improve the health of the river.</i>		
<b>2.</b> <i>Identify conservation implementation opportunities based upon the landowner registry and coordinate the delivery of technical and financial resources to implement the conservation measures. The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District and partners will leverage existing cost share opportunities provided by BWSR grants and USDA Farm Bill programs that could result in shoreland restoration, bio-retention practices, and prairie restoration. To implement identified conservation needs for which no programs presently exist, seek additional financial and / or technical support from other sources.</i>	Throughout project, 2011-2013. This is linked to Outcome #1	\$6,120
<b>3.</b> <i>Communicate results of landowner registry to conservation organizations or groups that increase effectiveness of conservation efforts on the Mississippi and other lakes and rivers.</i>	Every six months; (Jan 15 & July 15, 2012; Jan 15 & Jun 30, 2013	\$6,210

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2012:**

**Activity Status as of July 15, 2012:**

**Activity Status as of January 31, 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

## V. DISSEMINATION:

**Description:** The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District website ([www.stearnscountyswcd.net](http://www.stearnscountyswcd.net)) will be utilized as a tool for data dissemination. Post-workshop materials, identified in Activity #1, will be posted to the website. In addition, quarterly project partner meetings will be convened to share information collected through the Landowner Registry and to coordinate the implementation of best management practices.

**Status as of January 31, 2012:**

**Status as of July 15, 2012:**

**Status as of January 30, 2013:**

**Final Report Summary:**

## VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

### A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$128,400	One .69 FTE over two years (70% salary, 30% benefits)
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$40,000	Land use consultant/project manager to work with MRR communities to develop a Mississippi River Conservation Overlay District or similar.
Service Contracts	\$3,600	Subject experts/consultants to offer 6 training sessions (3 per FY).
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$3,000	Mileage for conducting landowner site visits to

		develop landowner registry.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:** N/A

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

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:** .69 FTE (2,854 hours over two years)

**B. Other “Cash” Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state</b>			
*USDA Programs	\$55,000	\$	Implementation of conservation best management practices
Sauk Rapids Sportsmen’s Club	\$2,000	\$	Miss River Event-local landowners
Rice Sportsmen’s Club	\$750.00	\$	Miss River Event-local landowners
<b>State</b>			
**BSWR	\$0	\$	Implementation of conservation best management practices
<b>TOTAL OTHER CASH FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$57,750</b>	<b>\$</b>	

\*These are current and future expectations of funding. The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District in partners with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) offer an array of USDA Farm Bill Programs to local landowners. There are several landowner incentive programs available to local landowners to implement conservation practices on their lands; Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). The cash match of \$55,000 is a conservative figure in expected funds to be utilized within the Mississippi River Corridor.

Currently, within Stearns County there are approximately 30,000 acres of CRP with an annual payment of ~\$75/acre. The CSP has an additional 36,000 acres enrolled with an annual payment of \$1.2 million dollars (2011 figures). In 2011, the SWCD plans to implement \$2.2 million dollars in EQIP contracts. All projects are implemented with motivated landowner. Actual dollars within the Mississippi River corridor will not be determined until the actual landowner registry is implemented under this project. As stated in the project activities we plan to concentrate outreach efforts with individual landowners within the corridor of the Mississippi River to increase the awareness, and implementation of these conservation programs. The SWCD is confident that \$55,000 in USDA funding is a conservative figure and is willing to provide cash match for any shortfalls.

\* BSWR funds *will not be included in as “qualifying in-kind” however they are noted within the table to document their assistance leading to project success.*

**C. Other “Non-State Qualifying In-kind” Funds (see Appendix A for detailed explanation):**

Source of Funds	Est. \$ value	# of hours proposed	# of hours used	Use of Other Funds
<b>Non-state staff</b>				
Benton County	\$17,750	535		Land-use authority, policy change
Stearns County	\$4,290	110		Land-use authority,

				policy change
Benton SWCD	\$12,000	400		Implementation of conservation best management practices
Stearns Co. SWCD	\$61,250	1250		Implementation of conservation best management practices
Marian Bender, Private Consultant	\$5,600	70		Advisory assistance
<b>Non-state elected officials</b>	<b>Est. \$ value</b>	<b># of meetings</b>	<b># of meetings attended</b>	<b>Use of Other Funds</b>
Benton County	\$1050	6		Decision maker meeting attendance
Benton SWCD	\$390	6		Decision maker meeting attendance
Stearns Co. SWCD	\$510	6		Decision maker meeting attendance
<b>Non-state other</b>	<b>Est. \$ value</b>		<b>Dollars used</b>	
Benton SWCD	\$14,690			Water Plan Levy dollars
Benton County	\$500			Notifications/publications
Benton County	\$3,520			Planning/Public meetings
<b>State</b>	<b>Est. \$ value</b>	<b># of hours proposed</b>	<b># of hours used</b>	<b>Use of Other Funds</b>
*MN DNR				Advisory and project assistance
<b>TOTAL OTHER "QUALIFYING IN-KIND" FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$121,550</b>			

*\*MNDNR in-kind will not be figured in as "qualifying in-kind" however they are noted within the table to document their assistance leading to project success.*

## VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

This proposal is a component of a long term effort that began in 2004. The project to date has: gathered and distributed Natural Resource Inventory data; facilitated the use of NRI in conservation plans for Sartell and Sauk Rapids; educated local officials through multiple meetings and presentations in each of the 11 communities; hosted 'on river' community events including a BioBlitz, boat tours, and "Take a Day Off on the River"; led a visioning process; worked to gain unanimous acceptance of the vision; and will be authoring goals that support the vision. It is expected that continued restoration and protection of riparian lands in MRR stretch will be undertaken after this proposal concludes. Funding from foundations, individuals, and local government will be sought to support cost share and to provide funding for land acquisition easement acquisition, and other implementation activities. Local capacity will be identified to support land and easement acquisition activities.

### A. Project Partners:

#### Project Team

Stearns County Soil & Water Cons. District (SWCD)

Dennis Fuchs, Administrator

Kimberly Thielen Cremers, Miss. River Renaissance Coord.

0.69 FTE ENRTF appropriations.

Manager of the funds

Salary to be paid with

Stearns County  
 Brockway Township (Stearns County)  
 LeSauk Township (Stearns County)  
 Benton County  
     \*Langola Township  
     \*Watab Township  
     \*Sauk Rapids Township  
 City of Rice  
 City of Sartell  
 City of Sauk Rapids  
 City of St. Cloud  
 Benton Soil & Water Cons. District  
 Marian Bender-private consultant  
 MN Department of Natural Resources –Community Asst.  
 Initiative Foundation – Don Hickman

In-kind Contributor  
 Potential in-kind Contributor  
 Potential in-kind Contributor  
 In-kind Contributor  
 Implementation Assistance  
 Implementation Assistance  
 Implementation Assistance  
 Potential in-kind Contributor  
 Potential in-kind Contributor  
 Potential in-kind Contributor  
 Potential in-kind Contributor  
 In-kind Contributor  
 Advisory & In-kind Contributor  
 Advisory (state dollars)  
 Advisory

*\*Planning and zoning authority in Benton County, unlike Stearns County, resides at the county level, thus townships within Benton County will assist in implementation and as advisory to the county.*

**Partners**

U of MN Extensions (NEMO Program) – John Bilotta

Training partner to be paid for with ENRTF appropriation (Service Contract)

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:**

**C. Spending History:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Mid-MN Mississippi River RC&D			\$1,000			\$5,000
Bush Foundation	\$10,000	\$10,000				
McKnight Foundation	\$45,000			\$65,000	\$65,000	
DNR Greenway Planning Grant	\$30,000					
Initiative Foundation				\$2,000	\$5,000	
Emerging Leaders Forum					\$1,800	
Sauk Rapids Sportsman's Club				\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
Rice Sportsman's Club					\$500	
Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District				\$10,600	\$42,613	
MN Waters (in-kind)					\$5,000	
CR Planning Inc. (in-kind)				\$4,000	\$4,000	
MN DNR staff assistance (in-kind)				\$50,240	\$27,996	

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A**

**IX. MAP(S):**

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A**

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

**Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than January 31, 2012, July 15, 2012, and January 30, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.**



**Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects**

**Project Title:** *Mississippi River Central Minnesota Conservation Planning*

**Legal Citation:** *\$87,000 the first year and \$88,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District to develop and adopt river protection strategies in cooperation with local jurisdictions in the communities of the 26 miles of the Mississippi River between Benton and Stearns Counties. This appropriation must be matched by \$175,000 of non-state cash or qualifying in-kind funds.*

**Project Manager:** *Dennis Fuchs*

**M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation:** *\$175,000*

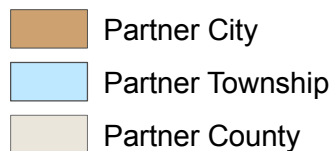
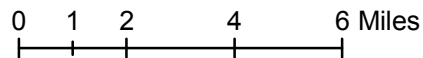
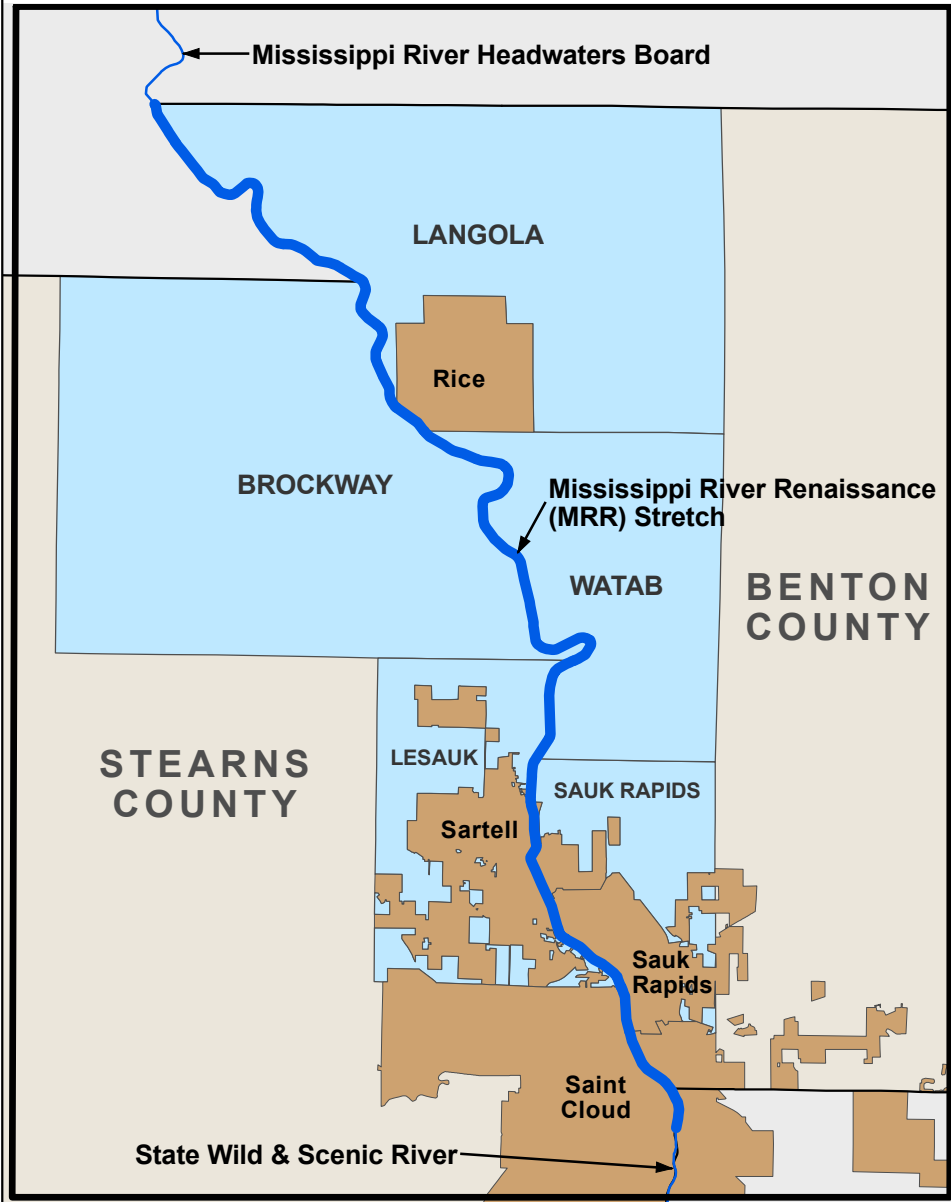
**Project Length and Completion Date:** *June 30, 2013*

**Date of Update:** *May 15, 2011*

<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Activity 1 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Activity 2 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<i>Adopt local and/or regional policies that increase river protection and restoration</i>			<i>Increase the implementation of river conservation practices among shoreland property owners</i>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b> Central MN Mississippi River Renaissance Coordinator at 69% time Inputs: salary =70%, benefits= 30 %, two year position, one person in this position.	45,000	0	45,000	83,400	0	83,400	128,400	128,400
<b>Professional/Technical Contracts:</b> TBD Land-use Consultatnt/Project Manager- To work with Mississippi River Renaissance communities to develop a Mississippi River Conservation Overlay District. This would be done collaboratively by and for communities along the Orphan Strech. Identify locally acceptable tool(s) for adoption and implementation.	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	40,000	40,000
<b>Service contracts:</b> Subject Expert/Consultatnts to assist in six training workshops (3 per/yr) to prepare communities for adoption of a Mississippi River Conservation Overlay Distirct, conduct training that may include:overlya districts, shoreland ordinances, incentives, low impact development standards, conseration design standards, long term land stewardship, economics of open space preservation, etc.	3,600	0	3,600	0	0	0	3,600	3,600
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota:</b> Mileage: 30 mi x \$0.50 (federal rate at time of travel) x 2 visits x 100 landowner visits		0	0	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>88,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88,600</b>	<b>86,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86,400</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>175,000</b>

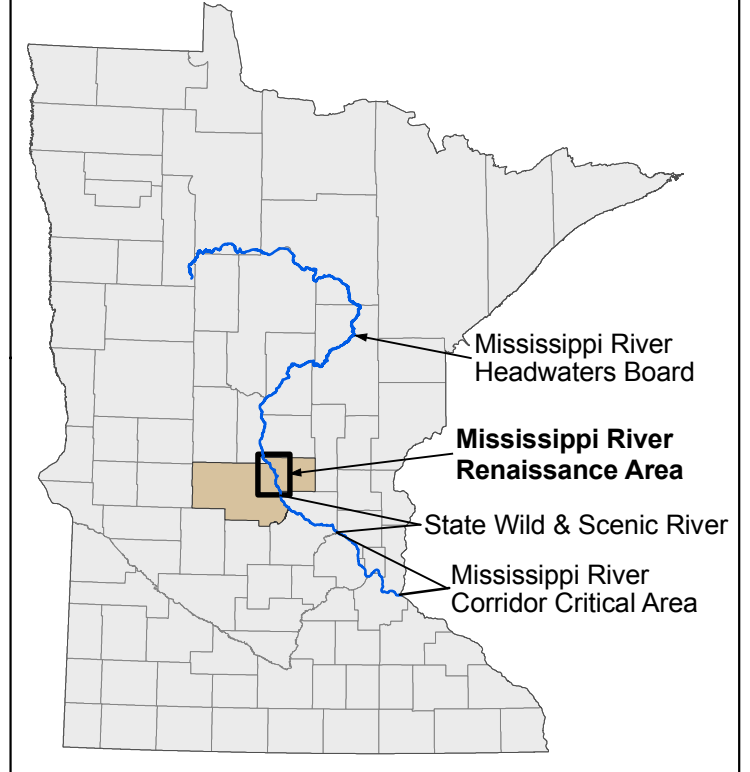
# Protecting the Mississippi River Renaissance Stretch of the Mississippi River

## Mississippi River Renaissance Area



Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

## Location of Area in Minnesota



Communities	Population, 2000	Linear River Miles, 2009
<b>Benton County</b>	<b>34,226</b>	
Langola Township	916	8.5
Watab Township	2,920	9.3
Sauk Rapids Township	723	0.8
City of Rice	711	0.7
<b>Stearns County</b>	<b>133,166</b>	
Brockway Township	2,551	10.5
LeSauk Township	1,880	4.6
<b>Urban Areas</b>		
City of Sartell	9,641	2.5
City of Sauk Rapids	10,213	3.1
City of Saint Cloud	59,107	3.0
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>167,392</b>	
<b>Total Lineal Miles of Orphan Stretch</b>		<b>26.4</b>

May 2011