



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Main Document**

**Date of Status Update:** 12/01/2011  
**Date of Next Status Update:** 06/31/2012  
**Date of Work Plan Approval:**  
**Project Completion Date:** 06/30/2014

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

**Project Title:** Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Acquisition and Restoration Program Partnership

**Project Manager:** Karli Swenson  
**Affiliation:** Board of Water and Soil Resources  
**Address:** 520 Lafayette Rd  
**City:** St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

**Telephone Number:** (651) 807-0445  
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**Location:**

**Counties Impacted:** Douglas, Pope, Stearns, Todd  
**Ecological Section Impacted:** Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

<b>Total ENRTF Project Budget:</b>	<b>ENRTF Appropriation \$:</b>	1,645,000
	<b>Amount Spent \$:</b>	<u>0</u>
	<b>Balance \$:</b>	1,645,000

**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 09d

**Appropriation Language:**

\$1,645,000 the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands and associated upland habitat in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program.

**I. PROJECT TITLE:** Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Acquisition and Restoration Program Partnership

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) - Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) partnership is a local-state-federal partnership delivered locally by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The goal of the RIM-WRP partnership is to achieve the highest quality wetland and native grassland restorations in order to maximize wetland functions and values and to optimize wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled in the program. Land enrolled in the RIM-WRP program is protected with perpetual conservation easements. ENTRF funds will be used to secure permanent conservation easements on a proposed 1500 acres of private lands through the RIM-WRP partnership, as part of a larger effort to protect and restore the drained Crooked Lake basin in Douglas County, MN.

Prior to its drainage in the early 1900s, Crooked Lake was a shallow, flat bottomed lake that likely supported diverse communities of aquatic and emergent plants, invertebrates, and migratory water fowl. The Crooked Lake Restoration project is a multi-partner project that aims to restore over 2200 acres of wetlands and almost 1200 acres of associated upland/grasslands around the drained shallow lake bed, which was the original headwaters lake for the 90 mile Sauk River. This unique project will have numerous ecological benefits including reduced nutrient loading and sedimentation to nearby (impaired) Lake Osakis and improved water quality throughout the Sauk River watershed. Thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat will be restored, and flooding stresses on landowners within the project area will be greatly reduced. The Crooked Lake restoration project was deemed a Federal priority in 2011 by USDA under the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) through the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Douglas County SWCD was granted \$7M in WREP funding for easement acquisition in the Crooked Lake project area. The combination of WREP funding and ENTRF funding will allow for the easement acquisition necessary to move forward with this substantial restoration project.

ENTRF funds will be used for easement acquisition, SWCD acquisition services, and BWSR project management only. Restoration and monitoring will be completed using other funds.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

- Project Status as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**
- Project Status as of January 31<sup>st</sup> 2013**
- Project Status as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**
- Project Status as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Acquire Reinvest in Minnesota-Wetland Reserve Program conservation easements on approximately 1500 acres within the Crooked Lake Restoration area

**Description:**

24 perpetual RIM/WRP easements are proposed on approximately 1500 acres within the Crooked Lake restoration area. Proposals were sent to eligible landowners via Douglas County SWCD and the application process is underway. The proposed easement acres are the minimum acres required to restore the basin to 2 feet above the proposed pool elevation. Landowners will have the option to enroll more acres, but the acres proposed will be sufficient to allow restoration of the basin to occur. Eligible applications that are selected for RIM-WRP funding are required to undergo a comprehensive site analysis which will ultimately determine the final easement acres.

Under the RIM-WRP partnership, easements are held by NRCS for the first 30 years, and then the perpetual RIM easement takes over. Once a RIM-WRP easement is acquired, NRCS is responsible for the maintenance, inspection and monitoring of the site during the life of their 30-year WRP easement, including all associated costs for these activities. The state of Minnesota assumes sole responsibility via its perpetual RIM Reserve easement once the 30-year WRP easement has expired. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry out monitoring and oversight of its conservation easements, to ensure compliance with easement restrictions and covenants and to ensure that the site continues to meet program goals into perpetuity. RIM funds used for acquisition of remaining parcels will provide the funds associated with long-term monitoring for the entire project.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,645,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 0**  
**Balance: \$1,645,000**

**Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2014**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. <i>Acquire RIM-WRP conservation easements on 1500+ acres</i>	June 30, 2014	\$1,588,355
2. <i>SWCD services for acquisition</i>	June 30,2014	\$48,000
3. <i>Project management (.1FTE) for 2 years</i>	June 30,2014	\$8,645

**Activity Status as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Activity Status as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**  
**Activity Status as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Activity Status as of January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014**

**Final Report Summary:**

**V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:**

Douglas SWCD has been meeting with landowners face to face as well as holding public meetings to raise awareness and seek participation in this project. The Crooked Lake Restoration project as a whole will continue to be promoted locally and shared statewide with the public by all partner agencies to ensure success and share the scope of this largely significant project. Once easements are acquired, data can be viewed online via RIM's interactive web map which can be found at: <http://maps.bwsr.state.mn.us/RIMOnline/>

**Status as of: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**  
**Status as of: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**  
**Status as of: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Status as of: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**Final Report Summary:**

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$8,645	Project manager time 0.10 FTE for 2 years
Service Contracts	\$48,000	\$2000 per easement to Douglas SWCD for easement acquisition services
Easement Acquisition:	\$1,588,355	Acquisition of RIM/WRP easements within project area
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$1,645,000</b>	

**Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:**

Classified staff, Karli Swenson, has been appointed project manager. Karli's status will increase from .8 FTE to 1 FTE due to increased workload, including but not limited to this project.

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:**

.1 FTE (Karli Swenson) for project management

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation:**

**B. Other Funds:**

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
USDA-NRCS Wetland Reserve Program dollars leveraged at \$1.6/1	\$2,632,000	\$0	<i>Funds will be used to acquire easements under the RIM/WRP partnership in the Crooked Lake project area.</i>
<b>TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:</b>	<b>\$2,632,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** Partners involved in the easement acquisition using ENRTF funds include Douglas Soil and Water Conservation district, USDA-NRCS, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The federally funded Crooked Lake MRBI-WREP project has various other partners including Ducks Unlimited, the Sauk River Watershed District, Vikings sportsman club, and Lake Osakis Lake Association.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy** The \$1.645 million ENRTF appropriation will allow the state to leverage \$2.632 million in federal WRP funding towards easement acquisition. The funding will allow us to protect 1500 or more acres with permanent conservation easements, and accelerate the effort to restore and protect thousands of acres of wetlands and grasslands within the Crooked Lake Basin. Remaining easements will be obtained under the WREP program, or with additional RIM WRP funding. As previously mentioned, restoration will be completed using other funding. Ducks unlimited will provide a portion of restoration costs associated with the survey, design, and construction of a water control structure to ultimately restore Crooked Lake. In October the BWSR Board allocated up to \$5M in 2012 bond funds for RIM to leverage the NRCS MRBI-WREP Initiative.

**C. Spending History:**

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: (attached)**

**IX. MAP(S): Map of parcels under consideration for Crooked Lake Restoration is attached**

**X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: n/a**

**XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:**

**Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than June 2012, January 2013, and June 2013, and January 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.**

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2011 Acquisition/Restoration List**

**Project Title:** Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Acquisition and Restoration Partnership  
**Project Manager Name:** Karli Swenson  
**M.L. 2011 ENRTF Appropriation:** \$1,645,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (Provide Latitude/Longitude OR UTM-X/UTM-Y)		County	Ecosystem Description	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude or UTM-X	Longitude or UTM-Y									
1	J. Brown RIM/WRP	328809	5088613	Douglas	Hayland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	315.9		Private	NRCS/BWSR	Approved for funding
2	B. Brown RIM/WRP	328967	5089175	Douglas	Hayland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	39.4		Private	NRCS/BWSR	Approved for funding
3	Hawkins RIM/WRP	329063	5088086	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	184.1		Private	NRCS/BWSR	Approved for funding
4	Rutten RIM/WRP	327093	5086705	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	56.1		Private	NRCS/BWSR	Approved for funding
5	Guyette RIM/WRP	329400	5087209	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	251.9		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
6	Walsh RIM/WRP	327464	5083992	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	24		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
7	Melzer RIM/WRP	327073	5086384	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	31		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
8	Erickson RIM/WRP	327,684	5,083,502	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	10		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
9	Gutenkauf RIM/WRP	329748	5089691	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	14		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
10	Gettel RIM/WRP	326702	5083241	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	12		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
11	Johanson RIM/WRP	329781	5087165	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	2		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
12	Larson RIM/WRP			Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	8		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
13	Rooney RIM/WRP	326643	5084773	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	22		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
14	Morisette RIM/WRP	331049	5089722	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	17		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
15	Sward RIM/WRP	327404	5086915	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	120		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
16	Strong RIM/WRP	329424	5089115	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	10		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
17	Heid RIM/WRP	328703	5090302	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	10		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
18	Haffner RIM/WRP	326543	5085403	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	27		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
19	Brouns RIM/WRP	330600	5089528	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	62		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
20	Brouns RIM/WRP	330078	5088685	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	47		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
21	Brouns RIM/WRP	331064	5089314	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	130		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
22	Brouns RIM/WRP	329008	5090346	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	27		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
23	Zimmer RIM/WRP	328933	5089603	Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	43		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED
24	Zimmer RIM/WRP			Douglas	Cropland/Wetland	Restorable Wetland	Purchase Easement	36		Private	NRCS/BWSR	PROPOSED

1499.4

NOTES:

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

**Project Title:** *Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve Acquisition and Restoration Partnership*

**Legal Citation:** *M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp.2, Art.3, Sec.2, Subd 9(d)*

**Project Manager:** Karli Swenson

**M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation:** \$1,645,000

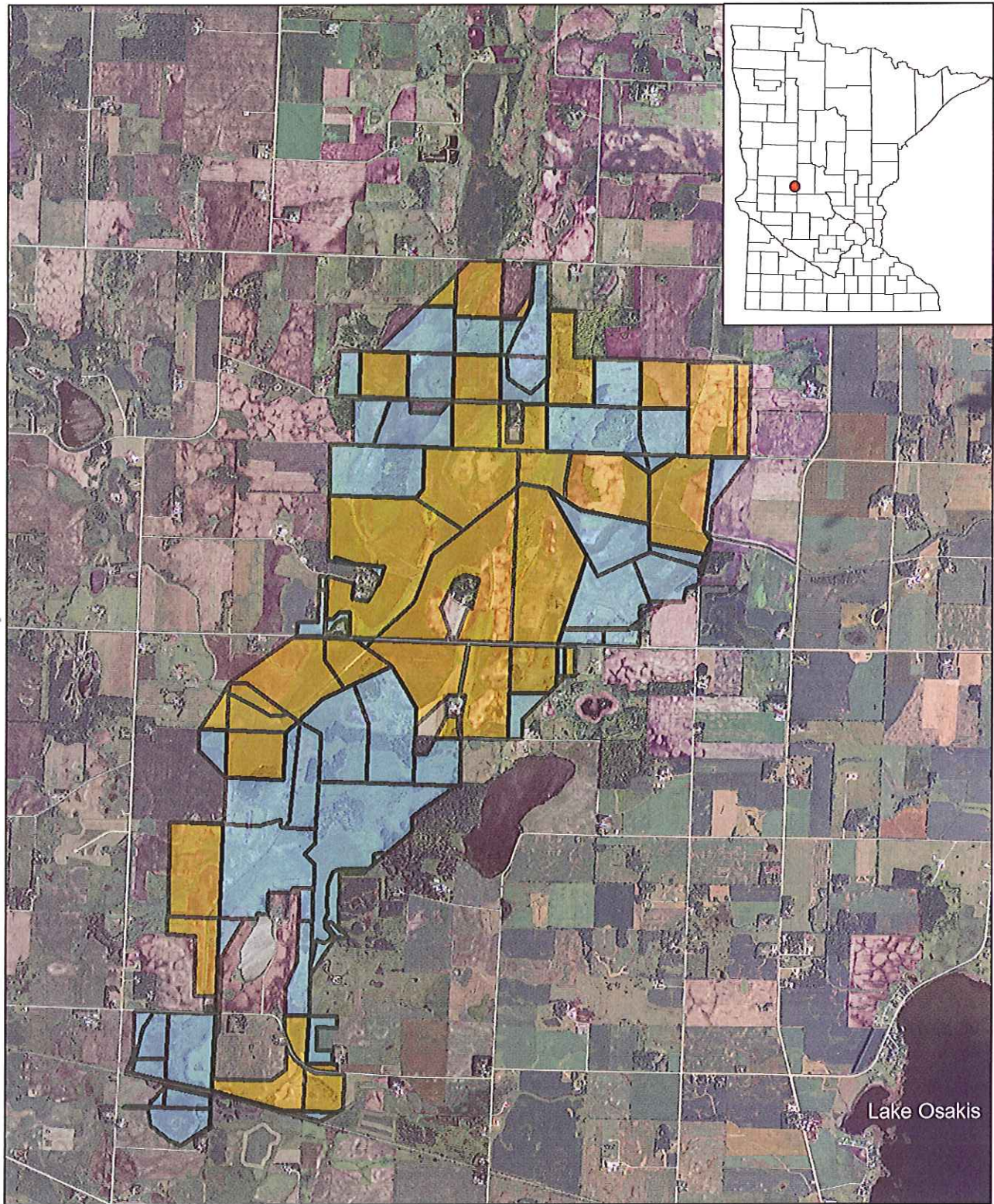
**Project Length and Completion Date:** *June 2014*

**Date of Update:** 11/30/2011



<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Activity 1 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b><i>Easement Acquisition</i></b>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b>					
Karli Swenson, classified staff, State Program Administrator Intermediate: \$43,222 (100% Salary and Fringe) <b>0.1 FTE for 2 years</b> for project management	8,645	0	8,645	8,645	8,645
<b>Service contracts</b>					
Douglas SWCD Staff receive \$2000/per easement for acquisition services. \$2000 x 24 proposed easements	48,000	0	48,000	48,000	48,000
<b>Easement Acquisition</b>					
RIM/WRP easment acquisition	1,588,355	0	1,588,355	1,588,355	1,588,355
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,645,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,645,000</b>	<b>\$1,645,000</b>	<b>\$1,645,000</b>



# Crooked Lake Restoration Project Douglas County, MN



## Legend

-  Parcels where RIM/WRP easements are proposed
-  Parcels where WREP easements proposed

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles



**Agenda Item: 04**  
**M.L. 2011, Subd. 9d**