

2013 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase VII Overall Summary
PROJECT MANAGER: Wayne Ostlie
ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Land Trust
ADDRESS: 2356 University Avenue West, Suite 240 St. Paul, MN 55114
WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors
FUND: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: Minnesota Laws 2013, Chapter 52, Section 2, Subdivision 4(d)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$2,000,000

OVERALL PROJECT OUTCOME AND RESULTS

Metro Conservation Corridors partners continued their work to accelerate acquisition and restoration of high-quality natural lands within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Six partner organizations participated – Minnesota Land Trust, Friends of the Mississippi River, Dakota County, Great River Greening, Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust received a 1-year extension to their grant and will report their final outcomes separately. Three specific areas of activity were pursued:

1. **Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management:** An upgrade to the MeCC web-based project database was completed and the MeCC corridor map was revised and posted for public use. Partners met quarterly to review project accomplishments, share information, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.
2. **Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:** Partners restored/enhanced 364.5 acres of habitat (282.6 acres through ENRTF) and 0.42 miles of shoreline (0.35 miles ENRTF), exceeding overall proposed outcomes in both areas and leveraging an additional \$342,658.

Partner	Proposed (Habitat/Shoreline)	Accomplished Habitat/Shoreline (ENRTF)	Accomplished Habitat/Shoreline (Other)	Expenditures	
				ENRTF	Other
Friends of the Mississippi River	134 acres/0 miles	135.5 acres/0 miles	0.0 acres/0 miles	\$142,000	\$4,546
Great River Greening	90 acres/0.18 miles	137 acres/0.35 miles	73 acres/0.07 miles	\$184,270	\$315,178
Dakota County ¹	40 acres/0 miles	10.1 acres/0 miles	8.9 acres/0 miles	\$22,808	\$22,935
Totals	264 acres/0.18 miles	282.6 acres/0.35 miles	81.9 acres/0.07 miles	\$349,078	\$342,658

¹Despite the Partnership achieving its collective goals, Dakota County fell short of its habitat restoration/enhancement goal by 75%, returning \$17,000 (42%) of its funding for this activity. A landowner with whom they expected to work instead opted to enroll in CRP, ultimately restoring habitat and receiving a payment.

3. **Acquire Significant Habitat:** Partners acquired 308 acres of land (189 acres ENRTF) and 2.5 miles of shoreline (1.25 miles ENRTF) through fee title and conservation easement acquisition. This exceeded

proposed outcomes for shoreline acquisition by 625% (0.2 miles proposed vs 1.25 miles achieved), but fell short in overall acres acquired by 28% (189 acres achieved vs 262 proposed), although this is likely to change with an extension afforded to Minnesota Valley Trust to complete an acquisition. The \$1,053,216 in funding from ENRTF leveraged \$3,373,183 from other sources.

Partner	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Proposed)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (ENRTF)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Other)	Expenditures	
				ENRTF	Other
Trust for Public Land	24 acres/0.2 miles	12 acres/1.06 miles	5 acres/0 miles	\$400,000	\$605,000
Minnesota Land Trust ²	100 acres/0 miles	0 acres/0 miles	0 acres/0 miles	\$48,612	\$0
Friends of the Mississippi River	6 acres/0 miles	6 acres/0 miles	64 acres/0 miles	\$162,000	\$2,573,202
Dakota County ²	32 acres/0 miles	50 acres/1.25 miles	50 acres/1.25 miles	\$195,804	\$194,981
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust ³	100 acres/0 miles	121.36 acres/0 miles	0 acres/0 miles	\$246,800	\$0
Totals	262 acres/0.2 miles	189 acres/1.25 miles	119 acres/1.25 miles	\$1,053,216	\$3,373,183

²Two partners turned back funding:

- Minnesota Land Trust was unable to complete an easement due to financial considerations or tax implications of easements on the part of landowners. \$251,388 (84% of grant) was returned.
- Dakota County exceeded its proposed acquisition goals, but turned back \$132,196 (40% of its grant for acquisition) due to setbacks with two landowners.

The amount of funding returned to the State (33% of total appropriation for acquisition) is proportional to the shortfall in ENRTF acres acquired (28% below goal).

³The Minnesota Valley Trust requested an extension of their grant for one additional year to complete acquisition on one project. This request was approved by LCCMR staff on 5/25/16. Completion of the project will result in additional acres (above and beyond shown in the above table) of habitat acquired, and ENRTF and matching funds expended.

Since 2003, MeCC partners have acquired and restored more than 12,000 and 13,000 acres respectively of important habitat across the program area.

PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION

Partners publicized accomplishments through a diverse array of press releases, organization newsletters and the internet. Additionally, the MeCC Partnership maintains an interactive public web map that shows the locations of MeCC projects over time. This web map can be directly accessed at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/MeCC/mapper.html>.

Date of Interim Final Report: November 15, 2016

Date of Next Status Update Report:

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/11/2013

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

Project Manager: Wayne Ostlie

Affiliation: Minnesota Land Trust

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Location: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$2,000,000
	Amount Spent:	\$1,410,239
	Balance:	\$589,761

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

Appropriation Language:

\$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$10,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$1,990,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements as follows: \$304,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$368,000 with Dakota County; \$208,000 with Great River Greening; \$310,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$400,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$400,000 with the Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through 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 plan. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work plan. 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 plan. Lands that would require payments in lieu of taxes under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.061 or 477A.12, shall not be acquired with money from this appropriation. Up to \$54,000 is for use by Minnesota Land Trust in a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan and subject to subdivision 16. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work plan. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2016, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates acquisition and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This network stretches from the area's urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are 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 several 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

Specifically, during this seventh phase of the MeCC Partnership, our focus will be on projects that build upon prior investments to enlarge habitat areas and create connections as well as projects that capitalize on urgent and unique opportunities. Our goal is to permanently protect 526 acres through fee title and conservation easement acquisition and to restore and/or enhance 264 acres of habitat. By achieving our goals, we expect the following outcomes:

- Strengthen and protect biodiversity in the region
- Protect and improve water quality of our region's lakes, rivers, and streams
- Protect and enhance habitat for a vast variety of wildlife and rare plant species, including "species in greatest conservation need"

The MeCC Partnership maximizes dollars available for conservation by building upon past efforts and investments, leveraging other private and public resources, and engaging in strategic cooperation. The Partnership has an excellent track record. Since 2003, Metro Corridors partners have acquired more than 10,000 acres and restored nearly 8,000 acres of priority lands in the greater Twin Cities metro area. We also have leveraged approximately \$2.69 of other funds for every dollar of ENRTF funding.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2014:

1. Partnership and Program Coordination:

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. With DNR support, the partners are continuing to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects over time.

2. Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:

Most of the partners are just getting work underway for this phase of the grant. Thus far, .4 acres have been restored with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional .8 acres have been restored with other funds. Shoreline re-establishment includes .09 miles with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional .19 miles with other funds.

3. Acquire Significant Habitat:

Partners are just getting projects underway, completing appraisals and commencing negotiations. Thus far, 6 acres have been acquired with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional 64 acres have been acquired with other funds.

1.1/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

1.2 DNR MIS

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

On December 11, 2013, FMR, with the City of Maplewood MN, purchased 6-acres in the Fish Creek Natural area. This acquisition was a part of larger acquisition that totaled 70 acres. In addition, FMR's Senior Ecologist conducted planning activities for restoration efforts at the Old Mill Park in Hastings.

2.3 Great River Greening

Five new sites have been identified for restoration/enhancement projects in addition to the two sites where work is continuing.

Work is proceeding and is on pace to reach the grant's acreage and shoreline goals, and volunteer engagement. Activity promises to increase with several projects poised for implementation starting in the 2014 growing season.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Project Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Project Status as of February 1, 2015:

1. Partnership and Program Coordination:

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity, but no funds have been spent from MeCC Phase VII. Partners are continuing to coordinate, MLT continues to compile partner reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding.

2. Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:

Two partners have made progress on restoration under this phase of the grant. Great River Greening has begun restoration activities at all project sites and is on track to exceed project goals. Almost 800 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work. Friends of the Mississippi River have completed enhancements

on 30 acres of forest and woodlands, 9 acres of savannah, and 28.7 acres of prairie, as well as restored 1.5 acres of prairie. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

3. Acquire Significant Habitat:

Thus far, 36 acres have been acquired with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional 64 acres have been acquired with other funds. Friends of the Mississippi River has completed 6 acres of fee title acquisition and the Trust for Public Land has completed 30 acres of fee title acquisition. Minnesota Land Trust and the Minnesota Valley Refuge Trust have not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

Project Status as of August 1, 2015:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. Partners are continuing to communicate and coordinate, MLT continues to compile partner reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding. MLT submitted, and was approved, an amendment to change project manager contact information in August 2015. In regards to easement acquisition Minnesota Land Trust has not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

Friends of the Mississippi River completed prescribed burns on two separate restoration sites, for over 16 acres in total area. Invasive species were cut, treated, or mown at three separate sites. Preparation for seeding, to happen in fall of 2015, occurred at two different sites. There are no updates in regards to any fee title acquisition activities since the last report.

2.3 Great River Greening

Great River Greening has continued restoration activities at all project sites and is currently projected to exceed restoration acreage project goals. Over 1,000 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work to date. Dakota County has not submitted any recent amendment requests and has no activity to report.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

Dakota County has not submitted any recent amendment requests and has no activity to report.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

No activity to report.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Minnesota Valley Refuge Trust (MVRT) currently is in negotiation with several landowners, including property for an addition to the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. MVRT has a signed purchase agreement for an addition to the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Refuge, on which they expect to close in 2015. Both parcels need to be added to the parcel list. MVRT submitted an amendment request in August 2015 to add the two units to the parcel list. There is no additional activity to report since the last update report.

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Through a RFP-process initiated in early fall bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. MLT utilized both mailings and web-based methods to conduct outreach to select landowners across the program area. Mailings contained

a RFP application and program description were sent to landowners in the program area who met the selection criteria. This same information was also placed on MLT's website and Facebook page. MLT also contracted with both Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts to effectively target outreach to landowners in priority areas that best met the criteria set forth in the RFP. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Based upon the RFP criteria MLT supplied Washington Conservation District (WCD) utilized a GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact as a two-pronged targeted outreach approach. WCD sent approximately 100 letters out to identified landowners.

The respective bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according the project selection ecological criteria. Based upon the ecological criteria several tiers of viable projects were apparent. Work has begun on three separate potential easement projects, all identified as projects from the top-ranking tier. Appraisals will be completed within the next several months, at which time negotiations regarding easement acquisition price will begin with the respective landowners. This cost factor will then be used in conjunction with the ecological analysis to refine and identify the final projects to move forward to easement acquisition before the end of the grant period. It is estimated that one to two easements will be completed before June 30th.

1.2 DNR MIS

DNR MIS (MN.IT@DNR) is finishing the upgrade work on the MeCC web-based project database that was started in spring 2015 through MeCC VI funding. Plans are underway to create a web map application of the newly-created MeCC ecological patches layer (Phase VI work) for review by the MeCC Partners and by other conservation organizations for comprehensive collaboration.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

Restoration activities took place at 4 sites. At the Old Mill Park in Hastings, the seeded prairie area was mowed twice and exotic brush was retreated to deal with resprouts. This was on previously reported acres. At the Spring Lake Park site, the seeded prairie was mowed. This was on previously reported acres. At the Gateway North Open Space Area in Cottage Grove exotic brush sprouts were treated with herbicide on 6 acres. At the Mississippi River gorge in Minneapolis, exotic brush was cut and treated on 7 acres.

FMR has submitted a work plan amendment request for restoration activities that is awaiting approval by LCCMR staff.

2.3 Great River Greening

Restoration and enhancement is underway at all of the projects on our project list with the exception of Victoria Park Phase I which has experienced delays. Regardless, we are on pace to exceed our acreage goals and shoreline goals. We have now engaged over 1500 volunteers to date.

Great River Greening has submitted a work plan amendment for its restoration activities that is awaiting approval by LCCMR staff.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

The County purchased a 61.7-acre portion of the former Cemstone property on July 22, 2015. County reporting staff was not informed that the purchase was complete prior to the last status report submittal for August 1, 2015; the Cemstone information for that status update was incorrect. The appraisals for the Betzold and Odette permanent conservation easements are complete; and the landowners accepted County offers to purchase permanent conservation easements. County Board final funding approval will be sought in early to mid-February 2016, for these two easement projects. Regarding restoration, an amendment request to identify specific restoration work is part of this status update report. NRMPs and PRs will be prepared for five easement projects. Initial restoration work is planned for the former Cemstone property and the recently acquired Malecha easement property where previously cultivated land will be restored to a wetland.

Dakota County has submitted work plan amendments for both easement acquisition and restoration that are awaiting approval by LCCMR staff.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

TPL closed its grant in November 2015.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge’s Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. Both closings should take place before the June 30, 2016 deadline.

While the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

Final Report Summary:

Metro Conservation Corridors partners continued their work to accelerate acquisition and restoration of high-quality natural lands within the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Six partner organizations participated – Minnesota Land Trust, Friends of the Mississippi River, Dakota County, Great River Greening, Trust for Public Land, and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Trust received a 1-year extension to their grant and will report their final outcomes separately. Three specific areas of activity were pursued:

1. **Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management:** An upgrade to the MeCC web-based project database was completed and the MeCC corridor map was revised and posted for public use. Partners met quarterly to review project accomplishments, share information, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.

2. **Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat:** Partners restored/enhanced 364.5 acres of habitat (282.6 acres through ENRTF) and 0.42 miles of shoreline (0.35 miles ENRTF), exceeding overall proposed outcomes in both areas and leveraging an additional \$342,658.

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3. **Acquire Significant Habitat:** Partners acquired 308 acres of land (189 acres ENRTF) and 2.5 miles of shoreline (1.25 miles ENRTF) through fee title and conservation easement acquisition. This exceeded proposed outcomes for shoreline acquisition by 625% (0.2 miles proposed vs 1.25 miles achieved), but fell short in overall acres acquired by 28% (189 acres achieved vs 262 proposed), although this is likely to change with an extension afforded to Minnesota Valley Trust to complete an acquisition. The \$1,053,216 in funding from ENRTF leveraged \$3,373,183 from other sources.

Partner	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Proposed)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (ENRTF)	Acquisition Habitat/Shoreline (Other)	Expenditures	
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Totals	262 acres/0.2 miles	189 acres/1.25 miles	119 acres/1.25 miles	\$1,053,216	\$3,373,183

²Two partners turned back funding:

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- Dakota County exceeded its proposed acquisition goals, but turned back \$132,196 (40% of its grant for acquisition) due to setbacks with two landowners.

The amount of funding returned to the State (33% of total appropriation for acquisition) is proportional to the shortfall in ENRTF acres acquired (28% below goal).

³The Minnesota Valley Trust requested an extension of their grant for one additional year to complete acquisition on one project. This request was approved by LCCMR staff on 5/25/16. Completion of the project will result in additional acres (above and beyond shown in the above table) of habitat acquired, and ENRTF and matching funds expended.

Since 2003, MeCC partners have acquired and restored more than 12,000 and 13,000 acres respectively of important habitat across the program area.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management

Description: The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts. DNR Management Information Services (MIS) staff will provide management of and updates to the GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as perform review and update of the corridor map and other mapping needs of the partnership. See the individual work plan for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 20,000
Amount Spent: \$ 7,945
Balance: \$ 12,055

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2016	\$ 2,000
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2016	\$4,000
4. Maintain current records of accomplishments in database	June 30, 2016	\$10,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

1.1 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

1.2 DNR MIS

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity, but no funds have been spent from MeCC Phase VII. Partners are continuing to coordinate, MLT continues to compile partner reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

1.1/1.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet at least quarterly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. Partners are continuing to communicate and coordinate, while MLT continues to compile partner reports. All partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects under MeCC Phase VI funding. MLT submitted, and was approved, an amendment to change project manager contact information in August 2015.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1 Minnesota Land Trust

Partners continue to meet regularly to review project accomplishments and coordinate activity. MLT continues to compile partner status updated and reports, and all partners continue to work on and update the online database to facilitate tracking and reporting of MeCC projects. With MeCC Phase VI grant now closed, we are now billing against the MeCC Phase VII grant.

1.2 DNR MIS

DNR MIS (MN.IT@DNR) is finishing the upgrade work on the MeCC web-based project database that was started in spring 2015 through MeCC VI funding. Plans are underway to create a web map application of the newly-created MeCC ecological patches layer (Phase VI work) for review by the MeCC Partners and by other conservation organizations for comprehensive collaboration.

Final Report Summary:

The MeCC partners met quarterly to review of project accomplishments, share information related to each respective partner’s conservation work across the MeCC program area, and to strategically plan and coordinate conservation activities.

The MeCC web-based project database upgrade work was completed by the DNR during Spring 2015 and made available for partner review, planning, and coordination purposes. Based on partner feedback, the web-based map was revised and was posted for public use which was made available for use in June 2016. The web-based map for public use can be accessed on the DNR’s website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors/index.html>, while the web-based project database can be accessed by authorized partners at: <https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/mecc/>.

An overall balance of \$12,055 was left unspent under the combined activities.

ACTIVITY 2: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Description: Restoration and enhancement of critical prairie, forest, and other habitats or major landscape connections. All projects will be within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area and strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique and urgent opportunities. See individual work plans for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 390,000
Amount Spent: \$ 349,078
Balance: \$ 40,922

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
Restored and/or enhanced 282.6 acres of significant habitat	June 30, 2016	\$ 349,078

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

FMR’s Senior Ecologist conducted planning activities for restoration efforts at the Old Mill Park in Hastings.

2.3 Great River Greening

At Central Corridor, prairie and savanna establishment proceeded with sustained invasive species control, and supplemental seeding engaging over 80 volunteers in the fall of 2013.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control were handled by county in-kind contributions and funds.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, the RFP process was completed. Winter snow seeding prior to the woody invasive treatment is planned. A volunteer hauling event has been scheduled for May 3, 2014 and recruitment has begun.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, an RFP process was completed.

An agreement was recently formalized and executed with Scott County for savanna establishment at Spring Lake Regional Park and negotiations with St. Paul Parks and Rec for work at Trout Brook Nature Preserve have advanced.

For Wild and Scenic Rivers II – Rum, 1500' of steep cut Rum River shoreline were re-graded then armored with cedar revetments, and seeded and live staked.

An agreement was recently formalized and executed with Scott County for shoreline establishment at Cedar Lake Regional Park.

2.6 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Two partners have made progress on restoration under this phase of the grant. Great River Greening has begun restoration activities at all project sites and is on track to exceed project goals. Almost 800 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work. Friends of the Mississippi River have completed enhancements on 30 acres of forest and woodlands, 9 acres of savannah, and 28.7 acres of prairie, as well as restored 1.5 acres of prairie. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

Friends of the Mississippi River completed prescribed burns on two separate restoration sites, for over 16 acres in total area. Invasive species were cut, treated, or mown at three separate sites. Preparation for seeding, to happen in fall of 2015, occurred at two different sites.

2.3 Great River Greening

Great River Greening continued restoration activities at all project sites and is currently projected to exceed restoration acreage project goals. Over 1,000 volunteers have been engaged through Great River Greening's work to date.

2.6 Dakota County

Dakota County has not submitted any recent amendment requests and has no activity to report.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

Rock Island Swing Bridge: FMR ecologists conducted site visits to evaluate the establishment of the 5-acre savanna restoration, as well as the efficacy of the invasive removal on the savanna and slopes of the berm.

36th Street Oak Savanna: In early October, crews cut and treated buckthorn and other woody invasive species on 7 acres of forest surrounding the prairie and savanna bowl. Crews removed woody brush on 3.25 of the acres, but left felled brush on the other 3.75 acres for a volunteer brush haul on October 10th.

Spring Lake Park: The site was evaluated on July 20, 2015. The prairie reconstruction, seeded in fall 2014, was mostly knee high or less. Typically a mow would not have been needed, but ragweed was starting to bloom, so the second mow of the season was done on July 22, 2015. A site evaluation on October 15 revealed a proliferation of black-eyed Susan's and several other early successional natives.

Old Mill Park: On July 17, 2015, the areas seeded on 4/21 (Units 1 and 3) were mowed, and again on August 13. The site was evaluated on July 30th – no natives were seen yet in the seeded areas. Unit 1 was dominated by foxtail, but black medick was much reduced from earlier. A few natives were seen in Unit 3 – black-eyed Susan, bergamot, partridge pea – but vegetation was sparse. By September 1, Unit 1 was still dominated by non-native grasses (mostly annual), but natives were easy to find – purple & white prairie clovers, yellow coneflower, Susies, bergamot, common milkweed, partridge pea and grass seedlings. Similar species were seen in Unit 3, plus blazing star, and Indian grass was abundant. The entry planting looked fantastic all season, with over 90 percent survival of robust plants that all flowered. It hosted numerous monarch butterflies in the fall. On October 20, the resprouted or seedling buckthorn plants in the wooded areas were treated with a foliar herbicide. The site was evaluated on November 2. The buckthorn treatment was apparent, but effectiveness will need to be evaluated in spring 2016. A large patch of thistles and buckthorn was detected, which was treated (herbicide) on November 6.

Gateway North Open Space Area: At GNOSA, crews treated buckthorn seedlings and small stems on 6 acres of savanna (Units Sav-1 and Sav-2). Crews spot-sprayed seedlings and small stems using backpack sprayers. Work was done as follow-up to past buckthorn removal, and will continue with future spot sprays of herbaceous plants and a prescribed burn.

2.3 Great River Greening

At Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul, establishment and supplemental planting of the prairie, savanna, and woodland restoration continued. Over 400 volunteers, including general public and participants in our Field Learning for Teens program, were engaged in planting 483 trees.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, seeds have been purchased for seeding, and agreements between the landowner and USFWS are underway for the contract seed drilling, scheduled now for spring 2016.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, spot follow-up treatment of non-native invasive shrubs was completed.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, roadside restoration, the RFP process was completed, and work has commenced with site preparation, installation of native woody species, and herbaceous prairie seeding. Installation of forb beds and maintenance of all is contracted for spring 2016.

At Central Corridor, over-seeding thin areas, mowing weeds, and spot herbicide application was conducted

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, activity included: 1) site preparation for prairie seeding; 2) enhancement of existing prairie plantings; and 3) forest enhancement through buckthorn removal. A fall volunteer event engaged 63 volunteers in planting grass and forb plugs specifically for pollinator habitat, fulfilling part of the plan to provide pollinator refugia during the restoration process.

Prairie establishment, primarily invasive species control was sustained at Cedar Creek Conservation Area by the landowner using CCM crews. The Greening crew is scheduled to conduct spring 2016 invasive species control and other activities.

Maintenance activities included providing guidance and a walk through at Arcola Mills, with the new natural resource management board committee chair.

At the Cedar Lake Farm Shoreline project, monitoring continued.

Damage due to floods was documented for the Wild and Scenic River – Rum project. A meeting with the SWCD and DNR Hydrologist have been planned for this month to pursue a robust response. Meanwhile, restored linear feet of shoreline has been adjusted downward for this project.

2.6 Dakota County

Since the previous status report, acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on the Malecha property, and fee title acquisition of a portion of the former Cemstone property have occurred. Initial restoration work is planned for these two properties this spring and early summer. Additionally, Natural Resource Management Plans and baseline Property Reports must be prepared for five permanent conservation easement projects (Betzold, Odette, Ruppe, Schweich, and Smith), following County Board funding approval.

Final Report Summary:

The three partner organizations participating in this activity (Dakota County, Friends of the Mississippi River, and Great River Greening) restored/enhanced 282.6 acres of significant upland and wetland habitat with Phase VII funding, leveraging an additional 81.9 acres achieved with other funds. Restoration activities have taken place on State SNAs and AMAs, various Regional, County and Municipal parks, as well as other ecologically-significant properties. A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see Tables A and B and the individual work plan final reports.

2.1 Friends of the Mississippi River

The Metro Area contains natural areas that provide important wildlife habitat and serve as crucial components of a larger system of interconnected habitats across the landscape. Human influences have degraded many of them. FMR had three goals for this project: Increase the amount of native habitat, enhance the quality of existing habitat and acquire and permanently protect habitat along the Mississippi River in Maplewood. To approach the first two goals we committed to restoring 10 acres of prairie and enhancing 54-acres of prairie, 10-acres of savanna and 60 acres of forest/woodland for a total of 134 acres improved. We accomplished the goals through the following projects:

- Gelhar-Emrick: A 6-acre unit at this property was restored to prairie.
- Pine Bend Bluffs SNA: A restored prairie and two native bluff prairies were managed for invasive weeds by spot-spraying and burning. Total prairie enhanced: 39

- Old Mill Park: This project resulted in 10 acres of enhanced oak savanna.
- Ravenna Block: A total of 5 acres of a previously installed prairie was managed for the initial two-year establishment period (mowing, spot-treat weeds). 34 acres of forest were managed for invasive woody plants (cut and stump-treat, fall foliar treatment).
- Spring Lake Park Reserve: Prairie was installed in a 17.5-acre old field.
- Heritage Village Park. We controlled invasive weeds and seeded native prairie/savanna species on 2 acres of woodland and 7 acres of savanna.
- Mississippi River Gorge: 7 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling invasive woody plants.
- Gateway North Open Space Area. 6 acres of woodland were enhanced by controlling woody invasive species.
- River Oaks Park: Controlled woody and herbaceous plants on an acre each of prairie and woodland. This project resulted in 135.5 acres of improved habitat. 85 of those acres were in two very rare habitat types in Minnesota, prairie and oak savanna. Specifically the improved habitat by community type resulted can be summarized in the following way: 23.5 acres of prairie installed/restored and 45 acres of existing prairie, 17 acres of savanna and 50 acres of forest/woodland were enhanced for a total of 135.5 acres of habitat improved.

There were four project sites that were included in our original proposal and project list but did not conduct restoration activities at them during this project. These sites are Minneapolis River Front, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Wilmar, and Mounds park. In each of these instances, FMR secured other funding to pursue the restoration presented in the natural resource management plans.

2.3 Great River Greening

Under Activity 1, a total of 9 Upland Restoration projects were completed, including new sites and new phases at the remaining sites.

1. Trout Brook Nature Preserve
2. Long Pond Elk Ranch II
3. Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park
4. Katherine Abbott Park I
5. Pilot Knob Hill III
6. Cedar Creek Conservation Area – Prairie Establishment
7. Central Corridor Phase II and III Establishment
8. Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott Co.) Phase III – Establishment
9. Dodge Nature Center Phase I

Across all Activity 1 sites we restored/enhanced a total of 211 acres (137 Trust Fund and 73 with match). Highlights include: restoring high diversity maple-basswood forest at Spring Lake Regional Park; kitten-tails (*Besseyia bullii*) habitat at Doyle-Kennefick in an area with historic records; and restoring a significant portion of the Trout Brook to Mississippi River habitat corridor.

Over 1,761 volunteers contributed to restoration work on upland habitats, including over 530 youth, over the course of 19 volunteer events. Volunteers planted 4,300 forbs and grasses, and nearly 4,200 trees and shrubs.

At the conclusion of the grant, all sites were signed.

The remaining balance is largely due to the Victoria Park project dropping out due to delays in the necessary pre-work. This project is worthy of future consideration.

Four of the 11 projects were establishment projects. This support is key to the long term success of restorations. leverage in-kind sources and enabling a more guided transition to landowner maintenance.,

Burn seasons during this grant season were often shortened by unfavorable conditions and the need for burn alternatives is increasing.

At Trout Brook Nature Preserve, the site was seeded, mowed, and spot treated for invasives. Volunteer events engaged 608 volunteers at 3 public events and 382 youth through Greening's Field Learning for Teens program. Over 10,000 plugs and over 2500 trees/shrubs were planted at the site.

At Long Pond Elk Ranch II, a high diversity prairie reconstruction was completed. Trust Fund dollars purchased the seed. US Fish and Wildlife Service paid for the seed drilling and the landowner completed all the site prep. This private site is in a key location and has undergone extensive restoration, and is a testament to 'pride of ownership'.

At Doyle-Kennefick Regional Park, removal of woody invasives and general woody encroachment was conducted, releasing the priority oak savanna area. A large volunteer event in fall, 2014 involved 142 volunteers (64 youth). Work at Doyle-Kennefick came in under budget.

At Katherine Abbott Park I, forest enhancement included woody invasive control by volunteers and paid crews including CCM Youth Job Corps, followed by supplemental graminoid seeding/plugging in the cut areas, and follow-up treatment of non-native invasive shrubs.

At Pilot Knob Hill III, roadside restoration, work included a large in-kind contribution from MN DOT, as well as an agreement for Mn DOT to purchase plant materials. MnDOT offered greater matching funds than anticipated, increasing the quality of the project to include oak savanna restoration with an emphasis on pollinator and Monarch habitat, including 15 trees, 36 shrubs, and 1824 forb and grass plugs in addition to invasive control. Work began with site preparation, installation of native woody species, and herbaceous prairie seeding, and was followed with installation of forb beds and maintenance. This is an important way to coordinate site management removing abrupt edges. Roadsides have unique challenges; MnDOT has expertise in this area which they shared.

At Cedar Creek Conservation Area, prairie establishment mowing and invasive species control were handled by county in-kind contributions and funds. Survey of the site revealed excellent establishment with a high forb component, with only a few spots needing supplemental attention. Prairie establishment, primarily invasive species control was sustained at Cedar Creek Conservation Area by the landowner using CCM crews. The Greening crew conducted spring 2016 invasive species control and other activities. Work at this site came in under budget.

Central Corridor Phase II and III establishment included two public volunteer events and one private event involving 337 volunteers, who planted 800 forb/grass plugs and 3,500 trees/shrubs.

At Spring Lake Regional Park (Scott County), savanna establishment work began with selective maintenance mowing and spot control of invasive species, and was followed by two prescribed burns, maintenance mowing, and seeding. Work at this site came in under budget.

Maintenance activities included providing guidance and a walk through at Arcola Mills, with the new natural resource management board committee chair.

At Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie, activity included: 1) site preparation for prairie seeding; 2) enhancement of existing prairie plantings; and 3) forest enhancement through woody invasive removal. A volunteer event

engaged 63 volunteers in planting grass and forb plugs specifically for pollinator habitat, fulfilling part of the plan to provide pollinator refugia during the restoration process.

2.6 Dakota County

The proposed restoration work for the Betzold, Malecha, Odette, Ruppe and Schweich project is complete. A portion of the anticipated restoration work was completed on the former Cemstone property; and no proposed restoration work was completed for the Smith project. Additional detailed restoration project updates are as follows:

- Line 2 (Betzold): The Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) and baseline Property Report (PR) were prepared for this project. However, the project was withdrawn very late in the acquisition process, after the landowners decided not to move forward to sell and easement. County staff believes objections raised by the landowners' children strongly influenced their decision not to move forward. Of the total restoration costs (\$4,650), the Dakota County contribution was \$2,325 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$2,325 (50%).
- Line 3 (Cemstone): Site preparation and initial seeding was completed on approximately 19 acres of former and existing cultivated land. Of the total restoration costs (\$9,102.52), the Dakota County contribution was \$4,257.23 (47%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$4,845.29 (53%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 7.2-acre easement proposed along 0.3 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. No restoration funds to prepare and NRMP and PR were expended.
- Line 9 (Malecha): The proposed wetland berm construction and initial seeding was completed. Of the total restoration cost (\$11,632), the Dakota County contribution was \$5,519.50 (47.5%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$6,112.50 (52.5%). In addition, the landowners donated \$1,008 of time toward the berm construction.
- Line 10 (Odette): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. However, the project was withdrawn very late in the acquisition process, after the landowners decided not to move forward to sell and easement. The main reason cited by the landowner was their ability to make more money over the long-term by renewing their new CRP contract. Of the total restoration costs (\$75), the Dakota County contribution was \$0 (0%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$75 (100%).
- Line 11 (Ruppe): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. Of the total restoration costs (\$11,250), the Dakota County contribution was \$5,625 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$5,625 (50%).
- Line 12 (Schweich): The NRMP) and baseline PR were prepared for this project. Of the total restoration costs (\$8,437.50), the Dakota County contribution was \$4,200 (49.8%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$4,237.50 (50.2%).

ACTIVITY 3: Acquire Significant Habitat

Description: Acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to protect critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area. Projects will be strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique urgent opportunities. See individual work plans for additional details.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 1,590,000
Amount Spent: \$ 1,053,216
Balance: \$ 536,784

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
Acquired 68 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2016	\$ 1,053,216

Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

On December 11, 2013, FMR, with the City of Maplewood MN, purchased 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural area. This acquisition was a part of larger acquisition that totaled 70 acres.

3.7 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

Thus far, 36 acres have been acquired with 2013 ENRTF funds and an additional 64 acres have been acquired with other funds. Friends of the Mississippi River has completed 6 acres of fee title acquisition and the Trust for Public Land has completed 30 acres of fee title acquisition. Minnesota Land Trust and the Minnesota Valley Refuge Trust have not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI. Funding for Dakota County is currently on hold.

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding.

Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:3.1 Trust for Public Land

No activity to report.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Minnesota Land Trust has not yet begun work as they wind down spending on MeCC Phase VI.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Minnesota Valley Refugee Trust (MVRT) currently is in negotiation with several landowners, including property for an addition to the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Refuge. MVRT has a signed purchase agreement for an addition to the Bloomington Ferry Unit of the Refuge, on which they expect to close in 2015. Both parcels need

to be added to the parcel list. MVRT submitted an amendment request in August 2015 to add the two units to the parcel list.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

No activity to report since the last update.

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

3.1 Trust for Public Land

TPL closed its grant in November 2015.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Through a RFP-process initiated in early fall bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. The respective bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according to the project selection ecological criteria. Based upon the ecological criteria several tiers of viable projects were apparent. Work has begun on the following three separate potential easement projects, all identified as projects from the top-ranking tier:

- Cedar Creek: 60 acres, Anoka County
MLT is working with the landowners on a bargain sale of a conservation easement that will protect the high quality natural plant communities of Tussock Sedge Meadow, Tamarack Swamp, Pin and Bur Oak Woodland on the property which have been mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as a site of high biodiversity significance. Approximately 2,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline along Cedar Creek runs through the middle of the property. The property lies within a regionally-significant ecological area in the Metro Area as determined by the DNR. Cedar Creek is a conservation priority area for Anoka Conservation District, with whom the Land Trust is actively partnering.
- Hardwood Creek: 145 acres, Washington County
MLT is working with the landowner on a potential full or partial donation of a conservation easement that will protect the moderate quality natural plant communities of Oak Woodland, Northern Mixed Cattail Marsh, and Northern Rich Fen native plant communities as mapped by MCBS. Approximately 1.5 miles of undeveloped shoreline along several unnamed lakes are contained within the property. Protecting this property helps maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Hardwood Creek, a regionally significant ecological area in the Metro Area as determined by the DNR and a conservation priority for Washington County.
- Seelye Brook: 130 acres, Anoka County
MLT is working with the landowner on a potential partial donation of a conservation easement that will protect the high quality natural plant communities of Red Oak Forest, Black Ash and Tamarack Swamp, Dogwood Swamp and White Cedar Swamp plant communities as mapped by the MCBS. An estimated 3,960 feet of undeveloped shoreline along an intermittent stream occurs on the property. Protecting this property helps maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Seelye Brook, a regionally significant ecological area. The parcel lies within a priority conservation landscape of the Anoka Conservation District.

Appraisals have been or will be completed within the next several months, at which time negotiations regarding easement acquisition price will begin with the respective landowners. The cost factor will then be used in conjunction with the ecological analysis to refine and identify the final projects to move forward to easement

acquisition before the end of the grant period. It is estimated that one to two easements will be completed within the next four months.

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The process of acquiring the two parcels for which this Work Plan was amended with the last report is underway. Purchase agreements have been signed to acquire fee title to 23.6 acres for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in the Bloomington Ferry Unit and 97.76 acres for the Refuge's Louisville Swamp Unit. Both acquisitions are taking longer than usual due to the need to plat both properties so the sellers may retain building sites with buildings. Both closings should take place before the June 30, 2016 deadline.

While the MN Valley Trust will meet the grant acres with these acquisitions, it will not have spent the full grant funds and completed the match acres. About \$150,000 will remain in grant funds and 30 acres will remain to be acquired for match. Land values have dropped significantly since appropriation, which is why the grant funds will not be fully expended.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

No activity to report since the last update.

3.7 Dakota County

Dakota County purchased a 61.7-acre portion of the former Cemstone property on July 22, 2015. Staff was not informed that the purchase was complete prior to submittal of the August 1, 2015, status report. The Cemstone portion of that report was incorrect. The appraisals for the Betzold and Odette permanent conservation easements are complete; and the landowners accepted County offers to purchase permanent conservation easements. County Board final funding approval will be sought in early to mid-February 2016, for these two easement projects.

Final Report Summary:

The four partner organizations participating in this activity (Trust for Public Land, Minnesota Land Trust, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, and Dakota County) acquired approximately 189 acres of significant habitat with Phase VII funding, 170.36 acres of which was protected through fee title acquisition, and the remaining 19 acres was protected through perpetual conservation easement acquisition. The partners acquired an additional 119 acres of significant habitat (100 in fee title, 19 in conservation easements) utilizing other funding leveraged by the ENRTF 2013 appropriation.

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see Tables A and B and the individual work plan update reports.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

On October 28, 2014 The Trust for Public Land acquired the 30 acre Lindstrom peninsula and immediately conveyed it to the City of Lindstrom. This 30 acre peninsula will be added to the adjacent 64 acre Allemensratt Natural Area that the City acquired several years ago with partial ENRTF funding. The peninsula contains approximately 5,600 feet of sensitive shoreline and has been added to the existing natural area to be managed as part of the City's park program. This property provides excellent wildlife habitat, water quality benefits and public access in a high growth area.

The landowners agreed to sell the property at a reduced price of \$900,000 (it appraised at \$1,000,000). TPL used the remainder of its ML 2011 MeCC acquisition funding (\$423,000) and all of its ML 2013 MeCC acquisition funding (\$395,000), together with \$82,000 from the City of Lindstrom to purchase the land for \$900,000. The landowners donated the value of \$100,000. Please note that the remaining \$5,000 of the appropriated \$400,000

from ML 2013 MeCC was released to the MN DNR for their acquisition, reporting and management planning costs as outlined in TPL's approved Work Plan.

3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

The Land Trust utilized a landowner bid process via RFP in September 2015 to solicit proposals from landowners of high value natural resource lands interested in participating in the program. Landowners within priority areas of Washington and Anoka counties, and elsewhere in the Metro region were targeted for inclusion into the program. The Land Trust contracted with Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts to assist with landowner outreach. Direct mail and face-to-face meetings reached over 140 individuals.

The RFP process was successful in attracting interest from landowners within targeted geographies. Landowner applications were received from 12 landowners, analyzed and ranked based upon ecological and cost criteria. Three properties were identified as priorities for acquisition and the landowners were subsequently engaged in easement negotiations. Financial considerations associated with the purchase of, or tax implications related to, an easement rendered negotiations with each landowner immovable and prevented the acquisition of any easement. Insufficient time remained in the grant window to undertake a second RFP or to engage others who responded to the initial RFP but were not initially pursued as priorities. The Land Trust will expand upon this initial RFP process in its upcoming MeCC VIII grant. Expenditures under this grant were related to personnel time associated with landowner outreach/negotiations and project-specific costs (e.g., appraisals, title work).

3.3. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

The Minnesota Valley Trust requested an extension of their grant appropriate for an additional year to complete acquisition on an additional project. The request for this amendment was because of the legal complications with the Louisville Swamp Unit acquisition due to the recent death of the fee title holder. This request was approved by LCCMR staff on 5/25/16.

3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

The Fish Creek acquisition took place in December, 2013. FMR was able to secure over \$34,000 in non-state match for this acquisition. This project was a part of a larger acquisition that took place at this time. An additional 64 acres were also acquired at this time using a variety of funding sources. The total acquisition at Fish Creek in December of 2013 was 70 acres.

3.7 Dakota County

Over the years, County staff has come to understand that many factors within the acquisition process can significantly delay or derail a project (e.g., unconfined utility easements; financial issues including necessary bank subordinations and mortgages, and undisclosed bankruptcy proceedings; landowner uncertainty and family dynamics; and changes to the easement configuration, including last-minute partial land sales). County staff does its best to anticipate and incorporate time for these potential delays; however, success in the timing of the lengthy acquisition process is not always achievable. Of the six projects on the appropriation acquisition list, three were acquired by the June 30, 2016, funding deadline, and three were not. Landowner decisions not to move forward with conservation easement, made extremely late in the acquisition process, and one landowner's inaction regarding the County's offer, resulted in approximately \$136,000 of unexpended grant funds.

Acquisition project updates:

- Line 2 (Betzold): The 46.6-acre easement, including 0.8 miles of trout stream-designated, Vermillion River shoreline in Eureka Township, was withdrawn by the landowners, following County Board approval. County staff believes objections raised by the landowners' children strongly influenced their decision not to move forward. This landowner decision, made very late in the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$46,675 of available grant funds.

- Line 3 (Cemstone): The 61.7-acre fee title acquisition, along 1.7 miles of trout stream-designated, Vermillion River in Empire Township was acquired on July 22, 2015. Of the total acquisition cost of \$209,863, the Dakota County contribution was approximately \$104,932 (50%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement was requested was approximately \$104,931 (50%).
- Line 5 (Smith): The 7.2-acre easement along 0.3 miles of North Creek of the Vermillion River was not acquired due to landowner delays in making a decision to move forward with the easement. County staff has learned that regardless of how much time is built into the process to allow landowners time to make final project decisions, sometimes it is just not enough time. This landowner delay, throughout the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$14,000 of available grant funds.
- Line 9 (Odette): The 55.2-acre easement along 0.5 miles of a Chub Creek tributary and including a high-quality pond wetland in Greenvale Township was withdrawn by the landowners, following County Board approval. The main reason cited by the landowner for withdrawing the project was their ability to make more money over the long-term by renewing their new CRP contract, versus selling an easement for a one-time payment. This landowner decision, made very late in the acquisition process, left no time to seek and process new projects and expend the estimated \$75,500 of available grant funds. Of the \$5,000 spent on the appraisal and \$610 spent on preliminary title work, the Dakota County contribution was \$2,500 (45%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$3,110 (55%).
- Line 10 (Ruppe): The 17.2-acre easement along 0.5 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township was acquired on April 4, 2016. Of the total acquisition costs (\$51,484), the Dakota County contribution was \$25,357 (49.3%), the landowner closing costs contributed were \$676 (1.3%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$25,450 (49.4%).
- Line 11 (Schweich): The 20.7-acre easement along 0.3 miles of Chub Creek in Greenvale Township was acquired on June 13, 2016. Of the total acquisition costs (\$124,416), the Dakota County contribution was \$63,415 (51%), the landowner closing costs were \$601 (.5%), and the ENRTF contribution for which reimbursement will be sought is \$60,400 (48.5%).

There is money unfortunately left unspent from this total appropriation, for the reasons just outlined and in previous status reports. Of the \$328,000 the County anticipated it would spend before the June 30, 2016, funding deadline, total acquisition reimbursement for approximately \$195,804 will be requested.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership will periodically distribute information about the program and accomplishments through the various communication methods of our partner organizations and as we conduct coordinated outreach efforts. As projects are completed, the partners involved will publicize accomplishments through press releases and organization newsletters and websites. The MeCC database includes a public web-based map that displays accomplishments. Additionally, the partnership plans to update the MeCC section on the DNR's website.

Status as of February 1, 2014:

A summary of each sub-result is provided below. For additional information and details on projects and expenditures, please see the individual work plan update reports.

1.1/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

1.2 DNR MIS

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

http://www.twincities.com/outdoors/ci_24773523/maplewood-fish-creek-greenway-funds-secured-trail-building, <http://www.startribune.com/local/east/237169171.html>, <http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=891>, http://www.fmr.org/news/current/fish_creek_protected-2013-12

2.3 Great River Greening

The fall 2013 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailing included the Central Corridor (aka South Washington Corridor) project description including Trust Fund acknowledgement. The spring 2014 'Volunteer Opportunities' mailing has been developed for February distribution, and includes the upcoming event at Katherine Abbott Park.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

Work is in the initiation phase for this grant. No ENRTF funds have been spent at this time.

Status as of August 1, 2014:

Report was submitted late due to a staff transition at Minnesota Land Trust. Current progress is reported under February 1, 2015 update, below.

Status as of February 1, 2015:

Three partners provided updates on dissemination of project publicity and are presented below. No other project partners provided information on dissemination activities.

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR): An article appeared in the Autumn 2014 issue of FMR's newsletter about the Oak savanna restoration at the Old Mill Park in Hastings. An article appeared in the October issue of Mississippi Messages, FMR's electronic newsletter, about the River Oaks Park in Cottage Grove.

http://www.fmr.org/news/current/river_oaks_restoration-2014-10

Great River Greening (GRG): The activities for GRG's fall 2014 volunteer event recruitment, including the events at Katherine Abbott Park, Trout Brook Nature Preserve, and Doyle-Kennefick included 'e-blasts' to their 6,500 member e-mailing list; Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on their web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; physical event flyers; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

Trust for Public Land: The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at: <https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemansratt-wilderness-park>. The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

Status as of August 1, 2015:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

No activity to report at this time.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

An article highlighting the restoration work to take place at Ole Olson Park appeared in FMR's Spring 2015 newsletter.

2.3 Great River Greening

GRG's spring 2015 volunteer recruitment for the event at Trout Brook Nature Preserve included 'e-blasts' to over a 6,500 member e-mailing list; 19 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on GRG's web page, which averages 1500 visits per month; 400 physical event flyers handed out at 9 community events/fairs and 3 volunteer trainings and elsewhere; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

No information has been disseminated due to the pending status of the three acquisition projects, and no restoration projects at this time.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemands-ratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

No activity to report at this time.

Status as of February 1, 2016:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

No activity to report to date.

2.1/3.4 Friends of the Mississippi River

http://fmr.org/participate/ongoing/gorge_stewards

2.3 Great River Greening

The activities for our fall 2015 volunteer recruitment for two events at Trout Brook Nature Preserve and an event at Dodge Nature Center's Lilly Prairie included 'e-blasts' to our 7,500 member e-mailing list; 13 Facebook and Twitter posts; posting on our web page, which averages 1,500 visits per month; and general contact of hundreds of individuals, many representing schools, churches, community groups, and businesses.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

An article about the Cemstone acquisition appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. The County website includes up-to-date project information.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

TPL closed its grant in November 2015.

3.3 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.

No activity to report at this time.

Final Report Summary:

1.1/1.2/3.2 Minnesota Land Trust

The Land Trust developed partnerships with local conservation partners (Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts) to conduct targeted landowner outreach in priority geographies to identify interested landowners. Outreach materials, including program fact sheets and application materials, were developed and shared with local partners and or were direct-mailed to landowners by the Land Trust. In addition, the Land Trust marketed the easement program and RFP process through social media and on its web site. Over 140 landowners were reached via direct mail or through face-to-face meetings, and an unknown number of individuals were reached through our web-based media. Though no easements were completed from which to disseminate results, the time invested in outreach through local partnerships provides a strong foundation from which to continue protection efforts in the Conservation Corridors area.

2.3 Great River Greening

Volunteer event descriptions acknowledging Trust Fund contributions and qualitative results were emailed to Greening's e-subscribers in July 2013, Feb 2014, July 2014, February 2015, July 2015, and spring 2016 in advance of our spring and fall volunteer event seasons. Over the course of the grants, the number of subscribers increased from approximately 5,000 to about 6,500.

Information about the Metro Conservation Corridors is on our website in the Initiatives and Volunteer Events sections at <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/>. Over the course of the grant, the visits to the Greening website increased from over 1,200 to over 1,500 visits per month.

Seven press articles disseminated information about the projects (but without Trust Fund recognition despite our written efforts):

- The Mahtomedi Area Green Initiative on a volunteer event at Katherine Abbott Park: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/%E2%80%9CBuckthorn-Blast%E2%80%9D-Planned-for-Katherine-Abbott.pdf>
- The Star Tribune on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://www.startribune.com/trout-brook-in-st-paul-s-north-end-to-see-daylight-once-again/267880201/#xqZDBCdDxAcvD4Gs.01>
- The Saint Paul Magazine on Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary: <http://saintpaulmag.com/cultivating-greatness-all-about-saint-paul%E2%80%99s-environmental-nonprofit-great-river-greening>
- Two articles reported on involvement of youth through an event at Central Corridor:
 - Stillwater Gazette,: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/hong/>
 - Star Tribune: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Star-Tribune-Nonprofit-dreams-of-mighty-oaks-050115.pdf>
- The MinnPost on a volunteer event at the Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul: <http://www.greatrivergreening.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Trout-Brook-Nature-Sanctuary-opens-just-north-of-downtown-St.pdf>
- The LillieNews on prairie restoration at Dodge Nature Center: <http://eastsidereviewnews.com/articles/2016/01/24/great-tree-migration>

We also post to the community calendars, and in these the proper acknowledgement is included. We post to the following:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Minnesota Master Naturalist Blog | 15. River Rangers |
| 2. Minnesota Master Naturalist Forum | 16. SEEK |
| 3. Macalester | 17. Volunteer Match |
| 4. St. Kate's | 18. WCCO Community Calendar |
| 5. MN Master Naturalists | 19. YourCause |
| 6. Gustavus GivePulse | 20. Minnesota Monthly |
| 7. Minnesota State University - Mankato
(Community Request for Volunteers Form) | 21. Hudson Community Guide and Calendar |
| 8. Do It Green Minnesota | 22. Restore Minnesota |
| 9. River wired (Green Hands USA) | 23. Hamline University |
| 10. HandsOn Twin Cities | 24. Augsburg College |
| 11. Idealist | 25. AARP volunteers |
| 12. KARE 11 Community Calendar | 26. 1 Mississippi |
| 13. KSTP Events | 27. Northern Gardener |
| 14. Next Step | 28. Gustavus GivePulse |
| | 29. MN River Basin Data Center |

Greening is in active partnership with landowners, other land managers, service providers, conservation peers, and volunteers resulting in a dynamic and timely exchange of information and results.

2.6/3.7 Dakota County

During the timeframe covered by this appropriation, information about the County land conservation efforts, including new and ongoing programs available, have been noted on County and watershed websites, and local and regional newspapers. There was a significant time gap between project acquisitions included in this appropriation, and with the most recent project acquisitions occurring in late June, the dissemination of information to date has been articles about specific projects in local town newspapers. Moving forward, County and watershed webpages will be updated as appropriate. In addition, the County ordered metal signs of the ENRTF logo to be posted with the County's land conservation signs to acknowledge our State funding partnership with LCCMR and advertise the presence of protected properties.

3.1 Trust for Public Land

The Lindstrom project is highlighted on The Trust for Public Land's website at:

<https://www.tpl.org/our-work/our-land-and-water/allemanstratt-wilderness-park>

The following information has been published about the Lindstrom site:

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19566>

<http://www.chisagocountypress.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=19627>

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 144,000	Staff to manage and coordinate MeCC, manage mapping and database for 3 years and other partner conservation staff salary and related benefits - please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Contracts:	\$ 233,700	Restoration, Professional Services - please see Overall Table B individual budgets for additional detail.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 51,500	Restoration plant materials and supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Acquisition:		Funds to purchase fee title and conservation easements and related transaction expenses.
Fee title:	\$957,000	Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Conservation easements:	\$495,500	
Restoration:	\$45,000	Restoration supplies and vendors. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
Travel:	\$7,500	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.
Additional Budget Items:	\$65,800	Conservation Easement Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement Fund, signs, parking to ensure sites meet DNR minimum maintenance standards, volunteer event supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET	\$2,000,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Work by DNR on this grant is done by positions that are either partially or wholly funded through a Professional Services arrangement. This is the standard way that the IT section operates and provides programming and database services to DNR divisions, bureaus and external partners.

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

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.26

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: 2.4

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state	\$1,107,500	\$2,703,841	Fee title acquisition, restoration activities, staff time, vendor services, materials/supplies, donated easement value
State	\$1,549,000	\$ 589,000	Restoration activities and fee title acquisition
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$2,656,500	\$3,292,841	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program - Acquisition
MN Land Trust	Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Friends of the Mississippi River	Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat & Acquire bluffland in Maplewood
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Priority Expansion & Restoration of MN Valley NW Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoring our Lands and Waters
DNR Fish and Wildlife	Not part of this funding phase
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database
DNR SNA Program	Not part of this funding phase
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	Not part of this funding phase

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the acquisition, protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2007 or FY08	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13
ENRTF - MeCC	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 3,150,000	\$ 3,375,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$3,475,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: Please see individual work plans.

IX. MAP(S): See Map Attachment

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than February 1, 2014, August 1, 2014, February 1, 2015, August 1, 2015, and February 1, 2016. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2016 as requested by the LCCMR.

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII (2013)
Table A: Summary of Funding & Accomplishments

Date: November 15, 2016
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Result / Activity	Partner	Project Funding						Accomplishments						Areas of Focus			
		ENRTF Funds			Other Funds			ENRTF		Other Funds					Total Project Acres (ENRTF & Other Funds combined)		
		ENRTF Funds Allocated	ENRTF Funds Spent	ENRTF Funds Balance	Other State Funding Spent	Other Non-State Funding Spent	Total Project Funds Spent (ENRTF, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	ENRTF Acres/Miles Completed		Other Funds Acres/Miles Completed							
						ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES	ACRES	MILES				
1. Coordinate MeCC Program																	
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two-year project term	Led by Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$4,016	\$5,984	\$0	\$0	\$4,016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A		
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	Led by DNR	\$10,000	\$3,929	\$6,071	\$0	\$0	\$3,929	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A		
SUBTOTAL		\$20,000	\$7,945	\$12,055	\$0	\$0	\$7,945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2. Restore & Enhancement Significant Habitat																	
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$142,000	\$142,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,546	\$146,546	135.5	0.00	0.0	0.00	136	Mississippi River watershed in Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota & Washington Counties.				
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$208,000	\$184,270	\$23,730	\$89,000	\$226,178	\$499,448	137.0	0.35	73.0	0.07	210	Anoka Sandplain, collar counties, metropolitan core, and Wild and Scenic Rivers				
2.6. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County	Dakota County	\$40,000	\$22,808	\$17,192	\$0	\$22,935	\$45,743	10.1	0.00	8.9	0.00	19	Vermillion River - Main Stem and North Creek; and Chub Creek and tributaries				
SUBTOTAL		\$390,000	\$349,078	\$40,922	\$89,000	\$253,658	\$691,736	282.6	0.00	81.9	0.07	364					
3. Acquire Significant Habitat																	
3.1. Critical Land Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$423,000	\$182,000	\$1,005,000	12	0	0.00	0.00	5	0	0.00	0.00	17	Allemensratt Natural Area
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$300,000	\$48,612	\$251,388	\$0	\$0	\$48,612	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	Critical shoreland and habitat, prioritizing habitat for migratory birds and for species in greatest conservation need.
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$400,000	\$246,800	\$153,200	\$0	\$0	\$246,800	121	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	121	MN Valley NWR units in Carver, Le Sueur, Scott and/or Sibley Counties
3.4. Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$162,000	\$162,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$2,073,202	\$2,735,202	6	0	0.00	0.00	64	0	0.00	0.00	70	Fish Creek
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$328,000	\$195,804	\$132,196	\$0	\$194,981	\$390,785	31	19	0.85	0.40	31	19	0.85	0.40	100	Vermillion River - Main Stem and North Creek; and Chub Creek and tributaries
SUBTOTAL		\$1,590,000	\$1,053,216	\$536,784	\$923,000	\$2,450,183	\$4,426,399	170	19	0.85	0.40	100	19	0.85	0.40	308	
TOTAL		\$2,000,000	\$1,410,239	\$589,761	\$1,012,000	\$2,703,841	\$5,126,080	471	1.25	201	1.32	673					

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII
Table B: LCCMR Funding - Budget Detail

Date: November 15, 2016
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$2,000,000

Activity	Partners	ENRTF Funding										Budget Explanation (staff/contracts/services, development, equipment, other)	
		Personnel	Contracts	Equipment/ Tools/ Supplies	Travel	Restoration	Acquisition		Additional Budget Items	Total			
							Fee	Easement					
1. Coordinate MeCC Program													
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two year project term	Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	Staff to manage and coordinate the program for three years
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	DNR MIS	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	Staff to manage mapping and database for two years
SUBTOTAL		\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	
2. Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat													
2.1. Restore/enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$24,000	\$110,700	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,800	\$0	\$142,000	Personnel: Conservation Director, Ecologist, Bookkeeper. Contracts: Vendors to provide restoration activities. Equipment/Tools/Supplies: gloves, fencing, posts, etc.. Travel: Mileage within Minnesota; Other: Native trees, seeds, shrubs.
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$40,000	\$119,000	\$41,000	\$3,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$0	\$208,000	Personnel: Dir. of conservation programs, staff ecologists, field crew, volunteer coordinator, and admin; Contracts: contracts for restoration activities; Equipment/Tools/Supplies: restoration tools, supplies, materials including power tools, sprayers, mulch, plants, seeds, etc; Travel: travel to/from project sites; Additional Budget Items: \$4,000 for volunteer event expenses and \$500 for Trust Fund signage.
2.6. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian restoration	Dakota County	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	Removal of invasive species, conversion of agricultural land (pasture and cultivated fields) and shoreline restoration on 40 acres.
SUBTOTAL		\$64,000	\$269,700	\$42,500	\$4,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,300	\$0	\$390,000	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat													
3.1 Critical Land Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$395,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	Acquisition: funds to purchase 24 acres in fee title. The land will be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship; Other: funds for Public Agency Professional Services for acquisition, reporting, and management planning costs as needed
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$183,000	\$54,000	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	Staff/Contracts: Staff expenses including salaries, benefits for approximately 0.75 FTE for 3 years. Travel: Mileage and related travel in Minnesota; Acquisition: purchase price of conservation easements and related transaction expenses for 100 acres; Additional Budget Items: \$54,000 for easement monitoring, management, and enforcement.
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	Fee title acquisition of 100 acres for priority expansion of the MN Valley NW Refuge.
3.4 Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$162,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$162,000	Fee title acquisition of 6 acres in the Fish Creek Natural Areas in Maplewood
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$328,000	Contracts: Professional services for easement acquisition (appraisal/title). Acquisition: Funds to acquire conservation easements on 32 acres. Additional Budget Items: \$2,500 for easement monitoring, management, enforcement.
SUBTOTAL		\$60,000	\$13,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$957,000	\$503,000	\$54,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,590,000	
TOTAL		\$144,000	\$282,700	\$42,500	\$7,500	\$0	\$957,000	\$503,000	\$63,300	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	