

## **M.L. 2013 Project Abstract**

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC VII–1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work

**PROJECT MANAGER:** Wayne Ostlie

**AFFILIATION:** Minnesota Land Trust

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 2356 University Ave W, Suite 240

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** St. Paul, MN 55114

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**WEBSITE:** www.mnland.org

**FUNDING SOURCE:** Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

**LEGAL CITATION:** M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$20,000**

### **Overall Project Outcomes and Results**

In this seventh phase of the Metro Conservation Corridors the partners met quarterly to review 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 2016 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.

### **PROJECT RESULTS USE AND DISSEMINATION**

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>, while the web-based project database can be accessed by authorized partners at:

<https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/mecc/>.



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## M.L. 2013 Work Plan

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**Date of Status Update Report: 10/14/2016**

**Final Report**

**Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/11/2013**

**Project Completion Date: 6/30/2016**

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**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC VII–1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work

**Project Manager:** Wayne Ostlie

**Affiliation:** Minnesota Land Trust

**Mailing Address:** 2356 Univeristy Avenue West, Suite 240

**City/State/Zip Code:** St. Paul, MN 55114

**Telephone Number:** (651) 647-9590

**Email Address:** wostlie@mnland.org

**Web Address:** www.mnland.org

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

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**Total ENRTF Project Budget:**

**ENRTF Appropriation: \$20,000**

**Amount Spent: \$7,945**

**Balance: \$12,055**

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**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:** MeCC VII–1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work

**II. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates protection 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 corridor 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

Activity 1 of this project provides coordination and leadership for the partnership by Minnesota Land Trust staff. Activity 2 of the project brings improved prioritization through enhanced data base development and mapping of the corridors by DNR staff.

**III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of February 1, 2014:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Project Status as of August 1, 2014:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Project Status as of February 1, 2015:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Project Status as of August 1, 2015:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

**August 3, 2015 Amendment Request:** We are requesting a change in project managers from John Brosnan to Wayne Ostlie to reflect a staffing change. Approved by LCCMR 8-4-2015.

**Project 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.

## 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 partners met quarterly to review 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 2016 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.

## IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

### ACTIVITY 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach

**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.

### Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 10,000

**Amount Spent:** \$ 4,016

**Balance:** \$ 5,984

### 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

### Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

### Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

### Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

**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.

**Final Report Summary:**

The Land Trust staff continued to convene and facilitate meetings of the partnership to share information, review and discuss project criteria, and encourage partners to coordinate efforts. Future meetings are planned, with the Land Trust continuing the coordination of partner conservation efforts in the MeCC program area as successive funding has been appropriated through a MeCC Phase VIII grant. Land Trust staff also compiled MeCC Partnership reports for this appropriation.

**ACTIVITY 2: Partnership Mapping and Database Management**

**Description:** 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 mapping needs of the partnership.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:**

**ENRTF Budget: \$ 10,000**  
**Amount Spent: \$ 3,929**  
**Balance: \$ 6,071**

**Activity Completion Date:**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>
1. Maintain current records of accomplishments in database	June 30, 2016	\$ 10,000

**Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Activity Status as of February 1, 2015:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

**Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

## **Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:**

### 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 DNR began refinements to the MeCC projects database application in 2012, during the sixth phase of the MeCC partnership. The updating and revision work continued into this seventh phase of the partnership and was completed in draft during spring 2015. Application updating has been completed by the DNR, and the web-based project database is currently available to MeCC partners for conservation planning and collaboration purposes. A public MeCC web map was updated during the summer of 2016 and went live on June 30, 2016. The updated public web map displays the latest version of the MeCC shapefile and includes the most recent eco patch analysis (based off of Metro Regionally Ecological Significant Area 2014 data).

Ecological analysis to assist MeCC partners in prioritizing project sites was initiated in summer 2013. The analysis drew upon existing Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data and combined that with the most recent National Land Cover Data information to create a new layer of MLCCS data. The new MLCCS data was then used to refine habitat models for the localized characteristics of the overall MeCC area. The new data and revised habitat models will be used to provide guidance to the project partners for new MeCC focus areas to concentrate conservation efforts.

## **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:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

### **Status as of August 1, 2014:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

### **Status as of February 1, 2015:**

At this time, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant. We anticipate beginning work as soon as MeCC VI terminates on June 30, 2015.

### **Status as of August 1, 2015:**

To date, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

**Status as of February 1, 2016:**

To date, no work has been conducted that is specific to this grant.

**Final Report Summary:**

The MeCC web map was updated during the spring of 2016 and went live for use by the general public at the end of June. The MeCC web-based map can found on the DNR’s website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/metroconservationcorridors/index.html> or by direct link at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/mecc/mapper.html>. The updated public web map displays the latest version of the MeCC shapefile, which was made available for the public on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons web portal.

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel: Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 10,000	MLT staff expenses including salaries and benefits to manage and coordinate the program for three years.
Personnel: DNR	\$ 10,000	DNR staff to manage mapping and database for three years.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$ 20,000</b>	

**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:** 0.1 FTE for 3 years (MLT and DNR staff)

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

**B. Other Funds:** N/A

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** The Land Trust and DNR are the only entities receiving funds for coordination and mapping, however, work is coordinated with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see the overall work plan for list of project partners).

**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 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:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>M.L. 2007 or FY08</b>	<b>M.L. 2008 or FY09</b>	<b>M.L. 2009 or FY10</b>	<b>M.L. 2010 or FY11</b>	<b>M.L. 2011 or FY12-13</b>
ENRTF - MeCC	\$24,800	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$40,000

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

**IX. MAP(S):** N/A

**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.



<b>Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 (FY 2013-14) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects</b>								
<b>Project Title:</b> MeCC VII-1.1 – Coordination, Mapping and Outreach and 1.2 - Mapping and Database Work								
<b>Legal Citation:</b> M.L. 2013, Chapter 52, Section 2, Subdivision 4(d)								
<b>Project Manager:</b> Wayne Ostlie								
<b>M.L. 2012 (FY 2013-14) ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$20,000								
<b>Project Length and Completion Date:</b> June 30, 2016								
<b>Date of Update:</b> 10/11/2016								
<b>ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Activity 1 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Activity 2 Budget</b>	<b>Amount Spent</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>TOTAL BALANCE</b>
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b><i>Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach</i></b>			<b><i>Partnership Mapping and Database Management</i></b>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b> Minnesota Land Trust conservation and support staff expenses including salaries and benefits for approximately 0.1 FTE for 3 years.	\$10,000	\$4,016	\$5,984				\$10,000	\$5,984
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b> DNR conservation and support staff expenses including salaries and benefits for 3 years.				\$10,000	\$3,929	\$6,071	\$10,000	\$6,071
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	\$10,000	\$4,016	\$5,984	\$10,000	\$3,929	\$6,071	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$12,055