

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

For the Period Ending June 30, 2016

**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC VII–3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

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

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

**APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000**

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

In this seventh phase of the Metro Conservation Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) sought to protect 100 acres of critical habitat through conservation easements within designated Metro conservation corridors. To facilitate this outcome, the Land Trust implemented an RFP process (a revision of the MMAPLE framework developed for the ENRTF-funded Avon Hills program in Stearns County) to solicit bids from interested landowners within areas of high biological value targeted for the program. A framework for scoring and prioritizing bids was developed for the Metro Corridors program that placed emphasis on a set of ecological criteria (size of habitat to be protected, condition of the habitat, ecological/protection context within which the parcel lies, and threat) and cost. Along with their proposal for inclusion into the program, landowners identified the funding level necessary for their participation.

The Land Trust utilized an array of strategies to effectively target landowners within priority areas, ranging from direct mail to face-to-face meetings and web-based methods (Facebook and web postings). Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts were contracted to engage local landowners within priority areas. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Washington Conservation District utilized both GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact to reach 100 landowners. The Land Trust also sent out targeted mailings to 26 landowners of property meeting criteria for the program elsewhere in the Metro.

Twelve bids were received and ranked relative to the established criteria; three projects were identified as highest priority for the program. These landowners were engaged in easement negotiations but eventually declined to continue forward due to financial considerations, specifically low appraised land values (relative to landowner expectations/desires) and tax implications for the landowner. As a result, no conservation easements were procured through this grant.

### **Project Results Use and Dissemination**

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.



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

## M.L. 2013 Work Plan Final Report

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**Date of Status Update Report: 8/10/2016**

**Final Report**

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

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

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**PROJECT TITLE:** MeCC VII-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements

**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

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

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**Total ENRTF Project Budget:**

**ENRTF Appropriation:** \$300,000

**Amount Spent:** \$48,612

**Balance:** \$251,388

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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–3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements**

### **II. PROJECT STATEMENT:**

The Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect natural and scenic lands with an emphasis on using conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders, and in the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, as one of the key tools necessary to achieve land conservation goals in a metropolitan area where escalating land values prohibit fee title acquisition of many priority lands.

Our goal is to permanently protect priority lands that contribute to a regional connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area and help maintain water quality of some of the region’s most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust will work to identify tracts of land within the mapped project areas critical to the protection of habitat and shoreland. We will prioritize protecting high-quality habitat for a variety of migratory birds and species in greatest conservation need, such as common loon, red-shouldered hawk, northern pintail, bobolink, and wood thrush.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses or development that negatively affect important habitat and other conservation values, require habitat management plans as appropriate, and direct the use of native vegetation in conjunction with any required restoration. The Land Trust also will explore the potential for public access with landowners on a case-by-case basis. The conservation easements may be either purchased or donated, or a combination of the two (bargain purchase). These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust’s comprehensive conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program. In order to fulfill these stewardship obligations, grant funds may also be requested for our dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with our LCCMR-approved policies and procedures, the Land Trust’s Project Cost Analysis, and as described in the document attached to the initial work plan for this appropriation. The attached Stewardship Overview describes the Land Trust’s stewardship program including easement administration and easement monitoring and defense. A copy of the updated 2012 Project Cost Analysis has been separately provided to LCCMR. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status and performance of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and monitoring activity associated with easements acquired with funds from this grant. This reporting includes submitting an annual financial audit of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund.

Proposed activities under this grant include: 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

### **III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:**

**Project Status as of February 1, 2014:** Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will not begin until M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Project Status as of August 1, 2014:** Work on MeCC VI is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Amendment Request as of August 1, 2014:** The Land Trust is requesting to change the project manager to reflect a staff transition.

*Amendment request approved August 7, 2014.*

**Project Status as of February 1, 2015:** Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Project Status as of August 1, 2015:** No work has been undertaken on M.L. 2013 – 4d to date. Work specific to M.L. 2013 – 4d will now begin with conclusion of M.L. 2011 – 4i on June 30, 2015.

**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.*

**January 6, 2016 Amendment Request:** The Land Trust is requesting a change in the parcel list to add three parcels to our approved easement acquisition list: Cedar Creek (Anoka County), Seeley Creek (Anoka County) and Hardwood Creek (Washington County). Each possesses significant ecological resources as represented by presence of MCBS-quality natural communities and other resources which are more fully described within the attached Project Summaries sheet.

The addition of the parcels is a result of a move by the Land Trust to utilize an RFP process to more effectively target and bring an enhanced level of efficiency to our easement procurement process. The RFP framework – a decision-support tool modified from the MMAPLE tool used in the Avon Hills – allows us to compare proposed projects relative to one another based on a set of ecological factors that together provide an estimate of long-term viability of the protection effort: 1) Size of Habitat, Amount of Shoreline, and Number of Rare Species within the parcel, 2) Condition of Habitat and Rare Species Populations within the Parcel and 3) Landscape Context surrounding the parcel (both extent of habitat and degree of protection). In addition, we strongly consider project cost, whether this is within an area considered to be a local and regional conservation priority, and whether conservation action is moving forward in the project area. The RFP and Ranking Worksheet are both included in this amendment request. The parcels proposed to LCCMR are among the highest scoring projects emerging from the RFP process that also meet the requirements of the Metro Conservation Corridors proposal. The RFP was released in September and closed in October 2015.

Although the RFP was broadcast across the Metro region, we partnered with Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts to effectively target outreach to landowners in priority areas that best met the criteria set forth in the RFP. We have found that this model of partnering with local agencies/organizations that both know these local communities best and are ideally situated to conduct outreach works well in bringing interested parties to the table.

*Approved by the LCCMR 2-8-2106.*

**Project Status as of February 1, 2016:** Through a RFP-process which was initiated in early September and ended on October 31<sup>st</sup>, bids from twelve different landowners were received for the purposes of MLT to purchase a conservation easement from the highest ranking bids. MLT utilized mailings, web-based methods, and one-on-one meetings to conduct outreach to targeted landowners across the program area. Mailings containing 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 landowners within priority areas. 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 12 bids were analyzed, ranked, and vetted according to a set of ecological criteria, level of threat, degree of protection and ecological context around the parcel, cost, and other factors. Three projects were identified as highest priority for the program. Appraisals will begin shortly and we expect to close on at least 2 of the three projects before the grant closes on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

In this seventh phase of the Metro Conservation Corridors, the Minnesota Land Trust (Land Trust) sought to protect 100 acres of critical habitat through conservation easements within designated Metro conservation corridors. To facilitate this outcome, the Land Trust implemented an RFP process (a revision of the MMAPLE framework developed for the ENRTF-funded Avon Hills program in Stearns County) to solicit bids from interested landowners within areas of high biological value targeted for the program. A framework for scoring and prioritizing bids was developed for the Metro Corridors program that placed emphasis on a set of ecological criteria (size of habitat to be protected, condition of the habitat, ecological/protection context within which the parcel lies, and threat) and cost. Along with their proposal for inclusion into the program, landowners identified the funding level necessary for their participation.

The Land Trust utilized an array of strategies to effectively target landowners within priority areas, ranging from direct mail to face-to-face meetings and web-based methods (Facebook and web postings). Anoka and Washington Conservation Districts were contracted to engage local landowners within priority areas. Anoka Conservation District (ACD) sent 17 mailings out to landowners of high priority properties within the Rum River Watershed. Washington Conservation District utilized both GIS-generated mail merge and direct contact to reach 100 landowners. The Land Trust also sent out targeted mailings to 26 landowners of property meeting criteria for the program elsewhere in the Metro.

Twelve bids were received and ranked relative to the established criteria; three projects were identified as highest priority for the program. These landowners were engaged in easement negotiations but eventually declined to continue forward due to financial considerations, specifically low appraised land values (relative to landowner expectations/desires) and tax implications for the landowner. As a result, no conservation easements were procured through this grant.

### IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

#### ACTIVITY 1: Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements

**Description:** The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing permanent conservation easements on 100 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating management plans as appropriate); and 3) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of the easements.

The Land Trust will work primarily with donated easements, purchasing easements when necessary and then at below market value whenever possible. Criteria for determining when a purchase is necessary include landowner ability to donate, connectivity of parcel to other protected lands, and quality of natural resources on the site. All potential easement projects are evaluated for habitat value (quality and quantity of existing habitat on site), context (proximity and relationship to other protected lands), opportunity/threat (which landowners will participate now), and other benefits (meeting multiple objectives, including visual and physical access, forestry goals, water quality, etc.). Current potential projects are identified on the attached list. New projects will be added as landowners are identified. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

#### Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

**ENRTF Budget:** \$ 300,000  
**Amount Spent:** \$ 48,612  
**Balance:** \$ 251,388

#### Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 100 acres by completing 2-3 conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, and dedicating funds for long-term	June 30, 2016	\$ 300,000

management, monitoring, and enforcement.		
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**Activity Status as of February 1, 2014:** Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will not begin until M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Activity Status as of August 1, 2014:** Work on MeCC VI is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

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**Activity Status as of August 1, 2015:** No work has been undertaken on M.L. 2013 – 4d to date. Work specific to M.L. 2013 – 4d will now begin with conclusion of M.L. 2011 – 4i on June 30, 2015.

**Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:** 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 a set of ecological criteria, level of threat, degree of protection and ecological context around the parcel, cost, and other factors. We have proposed three top-ranking projects to LCCMR via an amendment request to the program work plan on January 27, 2106, and are awaiting approval by LCCMR. These include:

- Cedar Creek: 60 acres, Anoka County  
MLT is working with the landowners on a bargain sale of a conservation easement that will protect 60 acres of habitat mapped by the Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) as a site of high biodiversity significance. Cedar Creek runs through the middle of the property. This property is part of an existing habitat corridor which 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 145 acres of habitat and undeveloped shoreline along several unnamed lakes on a site of moderate biodiversity as mapped by the MCBS.
- 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 130 acres of habitat and undeveloped shoreline along an intermittent stream on a site of high biodiversity as mapped by the MCBS. The parcel lies within an identified priority conservation landscape of the Anoka Conservation District.

Appraisals will be completed within the next two months. It is estimated that one to two easements will be completed before the closing of the grant, protecting approximately 205 acres, doubling the work plan acreage goal of 100 acres.

**Final Report Summary:** 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 protection 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).

## **V. DISSEMINATION:**

**Description:** The Land Trust will disseminate results in our publications (electronic and print) and on our web page. We will work to publicize completed projects in the media, targeting communities in which projects are located. Additionally, we will participate when possible in broader efforts of the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership.

**Status as of February 1, 2014:** Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will not begin until M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Status as of August 1, 2014:** Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Status as of February 1, 2015:** Work on M.L. 2011 – 4i is still being completed after an amendment request to extend M.L. 2011 – 4i through to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was approved on June 26, 2014. Work specific to the M.L. 2013 – 4d grant will begin when M.L. 2011 – 4i is completed.

**Status as of August 1, 2015:** No dissemination of results has been undertaken on M.L. 2013 – 4d to date.

**Status as of February 1, 2016:** MLT has strategically focused its outreach efforts to target local communities from the initial stages of outreach and engagement through project closing and beyond. Initial efforts have been to build close working relationships with people on the ground who have connections to local landowners. We have had conversations with Scott County, Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts, and Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District to date. Outreach materials, including print brochures and fact sheets, were shared with the local conservation partners. MLT specifically contracted with Washington and Anoka Conservation Districts to implement targeted outreach in conservation priority areas. Over 100 different landowners in these conservation priority areas across those two counties were contacted, initially through mailings, and some with follow-up one-on-one conversations.

**Final Report Summary:** 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.

**VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:**

**A. ENRTF Budget:**

<b>Budget Category</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Personnel:	\$ 60,000	Staff expenses including salaries and benefits for approximately 0.75 FTE for 3 years (0.25 per year) as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.5 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.*
Easement Acquisition:	\$183,000	Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.) to protect up to 100 acres of land.
Easement – Long-term Monitoring, Management, and Enforcement	\$54,000	Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring and enforcing 2-3 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed. Estimated at \$18,000 per easement per Land Trust’s 2012 Cost Analysis.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$3,000	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.55 per mile and \$300 for meals.
<b>TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	

\*Consistent with our past grants, contract staff is included here to allow flexibility to supplement existing MLT staff capacity to complete anticipated outcomes.

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

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

**Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation:** 0.75 total for 3 years (0.25 each year)

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

**B. Other Funds:**

Although we didn’t anticipate cash funds as match to the grant funds, we anticipated leverage through value of easements donated to the Land Trust by landowners. However, we were unable to close any easement through this grant and that leverage was not realized.

**VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:**

**A. Project Partners:** The Land Trust is the only entity receiving funds through this request, however, the Land Trust coordinates its work with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see overall proposal for list of project partners) as appropriate. Additionally, our partners include private landowners, as well as various units of state and local government that help in identifying and completing potential projects.

**B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:** This project is part of the Land Trust’s long-term, strategic conservation agenda. The conservation agenda sets out the specific conservation focus of the Minnesota Land Trust. This focus includes natural habitats for wildlife, fish and plants, lakeshores, rivers and streams, and scenic landscapes accessible or



visible to the public. The conservation agenda also identifies a suite of critical landscapes throughout the State that embody the natural and cultural features that make Minnesota unique. The Metropolitan Conservation Corridors is one of the Land Trust’s identified critical landscapes – one that addresses the unique conservation challenges that exist in a largely developed area.

The Minnesota Land Trust has a comprehensive easement monitoring and enforcement program directed at preserving the conservation values of protected lands. With each easement accepted, the Minnesota Land Trust will secure the funds necessary to meet our long-term obligations, setting aside funds for each project as necessary to meet future needs.

**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	\$134,000	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$485,000	\$400,000

**VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST:** See Acquisition List Attachment

**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.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
<b>Project Title:</b> MeCC VII-3.2 – Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements					
<b>Legal Citation:</b> M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 4(d)					
<b>Project Manager:</b> Wayne Ostlie					
<b>M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation:</b> \$300,000					
<b>Project Length and Completion Date:</b> June 30, 2016					
<b>Date of Update:</b> August 10, 2016					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<i>Protect Significant Habitat through Conservation Easements</i>				
<b>Personnel (Wages and Benefits)</b> <i>Staff expenses including salaries and benefits (FICA, FUTA, SUI, worker's comp health insurance, 401 (k), etc.) for approximately .75 FTE for 3 years as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.5 FTE) and staff attorney and other support staff (approximately 0.25 FTE) or contract staff for land protection project professional services, including negotiating and drafting conservation easements and/or completing easement baseline documentation.</i>	\$60,000	\$20,448	\$39,552	\$60,000	\$39,552
<i>MLT Conservation Staff</i>					
<i>Contract Land Protection Staff</i>					
<i>MLT Legal Staff</i>					
<i>MLT Support Staff</i>					
<b>Easement Acquisition</b> <i>Includes purchase price of conservation easement(s); title work, insurance, etc.; maps, GIS (including project mapping by Community GIS); film; other (including appraisals, surveys, recording fees, etc.)</i>	\$183,000	\$27,732	\$155,268	\$183,000	\$155,268
<b>Easement Monitoring &amp; Enforcement Fund</b> <i>Funds dedicated to perpetually monitoring, managing, and enforcing 4-5 easements acquired and held by the Land Trust as needed.</i>	\$54,000	\$0	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000
<b>Travel expenses in Minnesota</b> <i>Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota</i>	\$3,000	\$432	\$2,568	\$3,000	\$2,568
<b>COLUMN TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$48,612</b>	<b>\$251,388</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$251,388</b>

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2013 Acquisition/Restoration List**

Project Title: MeCC 7 - 3.2 Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements  
Project Manager Name: Wayne Ostlie  
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$300,000

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Bullard Creek	544079	4930820	TBD	\$0	Goodhue	Deciduous forest and scenic bluffs along Flower Valley Trail	Conservation Easement	94	N/A	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
2	Elk River	427435	5035353	TBD	\$0	Sherburne	Undeveloped shoreline along the Elk River	Conservation Easement	125	0.2	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
3	Little Lake	516367	5028058	TBD	\$0	Chisago	Large amount of forest, grasslands, and undeveloped shoreline along Little Lake	Conservation Easement	286	0.8	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
4	Little Long Lake	444181	4978868	TBD	\$0	Hennepin	Contains woodland, wetlands, grasslands and a pond. Adjacent to land previously protected with a conservation easement	Conservation Easement	10	N/A	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
5	Rum River	476218	5033118	TBD	\$0	Isanti	Contains forested acres, woodland and grasslands. Adjacent to land previously protected with conservation easement	Conservation Easement	32	N/A	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
6	Schendel Lake	447360	4994934	TBD	\$0	Hennepin	Contains hardwood forest, wetlands, grasslands and a marsh. Adjacent to land previously protected with conservation easement, lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	187	0.8	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
7	Tennyson Lake	461976	5040955	TBD	\$0	Isanti	Contains significant native plant communities of oak-maple woodland, sedge meadow, mixed cattail marsh, and mixed deciduous swamp as mapped by MCBS	Conservation Easement	145	0.5	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
8	Valley Creek	517306	4972701	TBD	\$0	Washington	Contributes to the extended complex of protected forests, woods, grasslands, and wetlands in the watershed of the trout stream named Valley Creek	Conservation Easement	18	0.1	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive
9	Cedar Creek	474587	5016999	TBD	\$0	Anoka	Large amount of Pin Oak Woodland, Tamarack Swamp, Alder Swamp, and Sedge Meadow native plant communities as mapped by MCBS. Undeveloped shoreline along Cedar Creek. Lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	60	0.4	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Likely bargain purchase; initial contact complete
10	Hardwood Creek	505413	5003379	TBD	\$0	Washington	Contains Oak Woodland and Northern Rich Fen native plant communities as mapped by MCBS, wetlands, grasslands and undeveloped shoreline along several unnamed lakes. Lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	145	1.5	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Likely purchase; initial contact complete
11	Seelye Brook	466205	5026237	TBD	\$0	Anoka	Contains four different (Red Oak Forest, Black Ash and Tamarack Swamp, and Dogwood Swamp) native plant communities as mapped by MCBS. Lies in a regionally significant ecological area	Conservation Easement	130	0.75	Private landowner	MN Land Trust	Inactive

**NOTES:** The above list includes projects the Minnesota Land Trust currently is considering. Other projects may be added to the list as new landowners are contacted. Some projects on the list will not be completed. Projects not completed under the current phase may be moved to future phases.