



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2013 Work Plan

Date of Status Update Report: May 14, 2013
Date of Next Status Update Report: June 1, 2014
Date of Work Plan Approval: June 11, 2013
Project Completion Date: December 30, 2014 **Is this an amendment request?** N

PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy

Project Manager: Jenny Gieseke
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Location: Approximately 35 counties to be determined early in 2014 as Soil and Water Conservation Districts make decisions whether or not to apply to the program.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$186,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$186,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 07a

Appropriation Language:

\$186,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources in cooperation with the Conservation Corps Minnesota to continue a program to train and mentor future conservation professionals by providing apprenticeship service opportunities with soil and water conservation districts.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: The Conservation Apprentice Academy transfers knowledge from experienced professionals to the next generation of conservation managers. Real-world experience gained with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) during their busy construction season is experience that textbooks cannot convey. The first year of this program during the summer of 2011 demonstrated the knowledge transfer goes both ways.

The Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI) works under a grant from BWSR to recruit interested Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and university students and then matches them up by geography and interest. A cohort of 30 apprentices was funded by the ENRTF for the summers of 2011 and cohorts of 35 in 2012 and 2013. This work plan would provide increased support so 38 apprentice positions can be offered in the 2014 field seasons. The 2011 grant addressed the set up and initial stipends so this appropriation can fund approximately three additional positions in 2014.

Future conservation leaders need to be familiar with Minnesota’s widely varying land-use practices, water and soil resources, plant and animal habitats, and landowner concerns if we hope to maintain the capacity of local organizations to deliver conservation on the ground. While college graduates with conservation-related degrees are knowledgeable in technology, theory, and research methods, their on-the-ground skills need development. Communicating with landowners and adjusting designs for field nuances are vital to the success of conservation projects and best learned from seasoned professionals. In turn, apprentices will bring knowledge of emerging technologies and other innovations to improve the quality and productivity of current conservation efforts.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of June 1, 2014:

Project Status as of December 30, 2014:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Employ apprentices

Description: This activity relates to the tasks needed to recruit, select, train, and employ academy participants for the summer of 2014. The overwhelming majority of the expense in this activity is related to the wages paid to the apprentices via CCMI.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 186,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 186,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. employ, train, and manage 30 38 apprentices during 2014	October 15, 2014	182,000
2. close out year and evaluate all four program cohorts 2011-14	December 30, 2014	4,000

Activity Status as of June 1, 2014:

Final Report Summary as of December 30, 2014:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The CCMI will be the primary disseminator and provide a link on their website describing the program (www.conservation corps.org). The program recruiting through environmental and engineering departments at several universities has been successful in garnering significant student interest from around the state. BWSR and the MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will also offer descriptions of the program and link to the CCMI site. MASWCD has been spreading this idea nationally through the National Association of Conservation Districts. BWSR has done likewise through the National Association of State Conservation Agencies.

Status as of December 30, 2013:

Status as of June 1, 2014:

Final Report Summary as of December 30, 2014:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

This is the third grant funded by the LCCMR for the apprentice program. Grant one addressed the cohorts working during the summers of 2011 and 2012. The state government shutdown of 2011 produced a small balance in the 2010 grant that was used to fund additional positions in 2012 and 2013; this in turn allowed a small balance in the 2011 grant to fund additional positions in this work plan.

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 3,000	0.04 FTE of non-general fund BWSR staff to assist with evaluation protocols and training
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$183,000	CCMI for recruiting hosts and apprentices, developing sub-agreements, and summer employment management for apprentices
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$186,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: Project management and field visit time - none seeking reimbursement.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: One non-general funded BWSR employee will be used to provide consultation and analysis of annual and longitudinal measures being collected. Her time will be approximately 0.04 FTE.

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

This is a one-year program to fund 38 apprentice positions for approximately 520 hours per position. This equates to approximately ten FTEs.

B. Other Funds: NA

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: CCMI via contract, MN Association of SWCDs, individuals SWCDs, University and State College systems, field staff of NRCS, BWSR, and other agencies.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Effort provides immediate technical assistance to accelerate conservation delivery utilizing typical funding sources such as RIM, WRP, CRP, EQIP, flood recovery, cost-share, and the constitutional funds for habitat and clean water. In the long-term we expect the participants will enlighten each other—the interns gain experience, the SWCDs gain emerging technologies. Our hope is that, following the completion of LCCMR (ENRTF) participation, that the program can ultimately utilize the new Clean Water Fund as it is not a previously existing general fund program and therefore not supplanting of existing efforts.

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
LCCMR				\$368,000	
LCCMR					\$200,000

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: NA

IX. MAP(S): NA – Exact participants will not be known until early 2014. Status Reports will add in the map when it becomes possible to construct it.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than June 1, 2014, and December 30, 2014. (The final report and associated products require completion of the summer work season and analysis of exit interviews so final reports are not possible until the fourth quarter of the year.)

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2013 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: Minnesota Conservation Apprenticeship Academy					
Legal Citation: M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 07a					
Project Manager: Jenny Gieseke					
M.L. 2013 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 186,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: December 30, 2014					
Date of Update: May 14, 2013					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) Jenny Giesecke BWSR training coordinator and member of our organization development section @0.04 FTE (non-general fund employee). (71% salary and 29% benefits)	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts Conservation Corps of MN and IA for manager time and stipends paid to 38 apprentices. Included in contract are funds for background checks, recruiting ads, and materials.	183,000	0	183,000	183,000	183,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$186,000	\$0	\$186,000	\$186,000	\$186,000

