

2014 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2017

PROJECT TITLE: Reducing lake quality impairments through citizen action

PROJECT MANAGER: Jen Kader

AFFILIATION: Freshwater Society

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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 03k

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$59,000

AMOUNT SPENT: \$59,000

AMOUNT REMAINING: \$0

Overall Project Outcomes and Results

Since 2000, more than 400 lake associations have participated in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) program founded by Don Hickman of the Initiative Foundation and now run by Freshwater Society. HLRP is a program designed to help lake associations across the state identify and work towards the priorities they have for their water body, one county at a time. The round of HLRP funded through LCCMR allowed for collaboration with Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, with specific attention focused on helping to align lake plans with County Water Plans so that local efforts could help to achieve county water quality goals.

In the last year and a half, four lake associations from Otter Tail County participated in a 2-day training covering the importance of lake planning, engaged in a Freshwater Society-led participatory planning process to define lake-specific and community-identified goals and strategies, drafted and finalized a Lake Management Plan specific to their lake (copies included in report), and began implementing those plans. These groups now have in their hands documents which detail specific stresses, threats, and opportunities for their lakes generated by RMB Laboratories, a clear indication of the shared vision of the community, and a 2-5 year action plan with steps they identified to help them realize these goals. Additionally, each group understands the resources that are out there to help them along the way, and has received \$5,000 of seed funds to get them started from West Central Initiative.

The four participatory planning sessions engaged a total of 184 lake residents from the county, and countless volunteer hours from the boards of the four lake associations to produce their own lake management plan for lakes representing hundreds of Minnesotans who have clear, community-identified goals and action plans to improve the health of their lakes.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

As a requirement for the final distribution of funds from West Central Initiative, all groups needed to send their final Lake Management Plans to East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District. The groups are also planning to distribute the final versions to their member residents and local elected officials in one way or another. This may include a mailing of a portion of the plan, loading the final copy to the website, or providing a small supply to volunteer leaders within the association. Additionally, the Project Manager sent final plans to West Central Initiative so they could see how the funding was going to be used. Freshwater Society will also keep copies of the plan on file to be given to other interested persons upon request.

A blog post describing the project and outcomes will be published by Freshwater Society in coming months, and the project website will be updated to reflect the closure of the project and goals identified by the groups. Each

lake association has been asked to check in with updates so that we may share how LCCMR funding has contributed to the success of community-led efforts to improve local water resources.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2014 Work Plan

Date of Report: August 11, 2017
Date of Next Status Update Report: N/A
Date of Work Plan Approval: June 4, 2014
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2017
Does this submission include an amendment request? Yes

PROJECT TITLE: Reducing lake quality impairments through citizen action

Project Manager: Jen Kader
Organization: Freshwater Society
Mailing Address: 2424 Territorial Rd. Suite B
City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55114
Telephone Number: (651) 313-5807
Email Address: jkader@freshwater.org
Web Address: www.freshwater.org

Location: Otter Tail, Douglas, Becker and Grant counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$59,000
	Amount Spent:	\$59,000
	Balance:	\$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 03k

Appropriation Language:

\$59,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Freshwater Society to train lake associations and other stakeholder groups to develop lake management plans and to implement science-based, citizen-led water quality improvement projects on impaired lakes in west central Minnesota. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2017, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Reducing lake quality impairments through citizen actions

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Millions of dollars are being spent to assess the water quality of thousands of lakes in Minnesota. EPA's 2012 Assessed Watersheds list is sobering—over 16 watersheds are listed as impaired predominately for aquatic recreation and aquatic life as the result of nonpoint source pollution. These impairments can be addressed head-on by citizens who have vested interests in the water quality of the lakes they live by and have organized lake associations around those lakes. Concerned citizens recognize the negative impacts on lake health that issues from septic system maintenance to aquatic invasive species have, but often lack the knowledge and resources to act.

This program will train participants from up to eight lake associations in lake ecology, lake assessment, communications, and plan implementation so that they can utilize the latest scientific information on their water body, combine it with participatory input from the broader community and turn it into an actionable lake management plan that results in on-the-ground project implementation. As a result of this program each participating group will implement at least one lake health improvement project that may include but is not limited to: septic system upgrades, lakeshore restoration, aquatic invasive species prevention, fisheries enhancement and updated local ordinances.

Working with local government and agency partners, up to eight groups will be chosen to send 5-8 representatives to two days of training covering lake ecology, reading lake assessments, how to effectively communicate, and how to develop a lake management plan. Each group will receive an assessment on their water body that includes all relevant data on water parameters, land use and other ecological factors that impact the health of that water body. With ongoing assistance and guidance each group will host a community wide input session to gather insights and interest from neighbors and other lake users. They will then distill this information, along with the lake assessment data, into an action plan that delineates the most critical project needed, and a detailed plan for getting it done.

These citizens groups represent an additional and often untapped asset for those agencies and organizations responsible for managing water resources. The strengthened partnerships that this program creates, along with the on-the-ground-projects that are leveraged through funding from our partner at West Central Initiative, create ongoing impacts and the capacity for more in the future.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 1, 2015: To assist in selecting and recruiting participants, relationships were established with multiple local partners including Ottertail County Soil and Water District, the West Central Initiative, The Ottertail Coalition of Lake Associations, and University of Minnesota Extension. Communications were established with 14 lake groups and to date, three have committed to participating in the program. While this is short of the overall goal of 8 groups, the initial groundwork should result in more groups committing to the program during spring of 2015.

Project Status as of July 1, 2015: The recruitment activities and goals outlined in the January 2015 update did not yield the expected response and to date there is still insufficient participation to implement the whole project. As a result, the geographic scope of the program has been widened and conversations have begun with additional potential partners.

Project Status January 1, 2016: Of the three who committed to the process by January 1, 2015, one is no longer able to participate. However, a total of four groups have now committed to participate in the program, which is

sufficient for initiating the planning process for holding trainings this spring. The four lakes are Wall Lake, Lake Lida, Lake Six, and Big McDonald Lake. Scheduling requests to project partners and the participating groups have gone out, and planning has begun. As there is room for as many as eight groups to participate, we are still recruiting for groups. We are on track to hold the trainings this spring and continue to meet stated project deadlines.

Amendment Request 1/28/16: We have found that recruitment of lake associations to participate in the HLRP has required more time than originally anticipated. As noted in the last status update, the critical mass necessary to implement the full program (6-8 lake associations) through the recruitment efforts previously outlined did not result in the additional groups from Ottertail County that were sought during winter and spring of 2015. Because the initial assessment conducted prior to July 2014 that indicated that there would be sufficient interest within Ottertail did not yield the necessary results, the geographic scope of the program has been widened to include Becker County and conversations have begun with watershed organizations there. While this is somewhat concerning given the initial indications from outreach efforts done prior to implementation of the present grant were very positive, there does currently seem to be potential interest in the expanded areas. This has meant that more budget dollars is needed for Activity 1, Outcome 2. Along with that, there was \$5,000 earmarked in Activity 1, Outcome 3 to hire RMB Laboratories to complete Lake Assessments for each of the targeted lakes. We have found that the assessment documents are already done and we did not need to contract with RMB to do this, and will not need the \$5,000 of expense for this purpose. Due to the additional recruitment efforts and time spent on recruitment, along with not needing to contract with RMB Laboratories, we are requesting a shift of the \$5,000 from Activity 1, Outcome 3 to Activity 1, Outcome 2.

Amendment Approved: February 23, 2016.

Project Status as of July 1 2016: Considerable effort was put into recruiting participants in Otter Tail county, but we were unable to secure participants beyond the four identified in the January update. Template lake management plans were drafted by Freshwater Society for all participating groups. This April, 25 people representing four lake associations (Wall Lake, Big McDonald Lake, Lake Six, and Lake Lida) from Otter Tail County participated in the 2-day training in Pelican Rapids that covered the importance of planning, the resources available to help groups succeed in their plans, and preparation for the Community Visioning Sessions. The 2-day training was attended by representatives from the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District who shared about the county water plan as well as resources the SWCD provides. They also talked with attendees about their initial ideas and answered many technical questions. In June, three of the four Community Visioning Sessions took place and were facilitated by the Project Manager, and summaries of those sessions also prepared by the Project Manager were distributed to the appropriate groups. The project manager is now working with those three groups to draft the "Action Plan" components of their final Lake Management Plan. The fourth one (Big McDonald) has been delayed to August due to surgeries and other health needs of members of the group's leadership team. However, the Project Manager did attend and present at the group's annual meeting in June. With the exception of Big McDonald, which will likely be unable to complete the final draft of the Lake Management Plan by the deadline established in Activity II, all other groups are on track to complete their plans this summer.

Project Status as of January 1, 2017: All four groups have completed their Community Visioning Sessions. Following the sessions, the Project Manager analyzed the community input and provided a summary to each group from which the groups were able to draft action plans designed to help the groups implement their Lake Management Plans. This summer and fall, the Project Manager reviewed drafts of plans submitted and shared those with several others to verify applicability and completeness as well as provide comment or suggestions (more detail on who participated in review is provided under Activity 2). All four groups are at different stages in updating their first drafts, indicative of the varying level of existing capacity in each group. One is making final edits to the full plan, another about to receive feedback on the first draft of their action plan, and the other two on the spectrum in between. Despite their different levels of completeness, it is anticipated that all four will

complete the project in the set timeframe for this grant. In addition, all groups will have started implementing their action plans by the end of the grant period so as to ensure they receive the full match from West Central Initiative. Two of the groups have already been able to begin implementing at least one of their identified strategies, and the Project Manager will work with the other two to identify opportunities to begin implementation before the end of June.

Amendment Request 8/11/17: We have found that the time required to complete the project activities by the end of the grant timeline was more than anticipated. We also found that the amount of travel required was less than anticipated in the final year with the growing acceptance of remote collaboration. As such, we were able to complete the project and work with lake associations via phone and email rather than needing to travel. As a result, we are requesting a shift of \$1,952 out of the travel line item to the personnel line item.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

Since 2000, more than 400 lake associations have participated in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) program founded by Don Hickman of the Initiative Foundation and now run by Freshwater Society. HLRP is a program designed to help lake associations across the state identify and work towards the priorities they have for their water body, one county at a time. The round of HLRP funded through LCCMR allowed for collaboration with Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, with specific attention focused on helping to align lake plans with County Water Plans so that local efforts could help to achieve county water quality goals.

In the last year and a half, four lake associations from Otter Tail County participated in a 2-day training covering the importance of lake planning, engaged in a Freshwater Society-led participatory planning process to define lake-specific and community-identified goals and strategies, drafted and finalized a Lake Management Plan specific to their lake (copies included in report), and began implementing those plans. These groups now have in their hands documents which detail specific stresses, threats, and opportunities for their lakes generated by RMB Laboratories, a clear indication of the shared vision of the community, and a 2-5 year action plan with steps they identified to help them realize these goals. Additionally, each group understands the resources that are out there to help them along the way, and has received \$5,000 of seed funds to get them started from West Central Initiative.

The four participatory planning sessions engaged a total of 184 lake residents from the county, and countless volunteer hours from the boards of the four lake associations to produce their own lake management plan for lakes representing hundreds of Minnesotans who have clear, community-identified goals and action plans to improve the health of their lakes.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Group selection and lake assessment procurement

Description: Working closely with the West Central Initiative and county partners in the program area, and utilizing the EPA's 2012 assessed watershed list as a reference, a list of associations will be identified for participation in the program. Through input from partners as well as subsequent contact and communications with members of the groups, each association's capacity for undertaking the lake management plan program will be assessed and a larger pool of candidates will be filtered down to a maximum of eight. In addition at this time, attention will be given to finding agricultural partners who would make good candidates for participation in the program, either as a representative to the group in the overall program or later in the community input process. Again, local partner knowledge of the community will be relied on here.

Once the participating groups have been selected, invited, and have accepted, lake assessments for each of the participating water bodies will be procured through RMB laboratories. RMB has already created many

assessments for lakes in the area that are being put to use by county partners. Where no assessment is available, RMB will be hired to complete one.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$10,000
Amount Spent: \$10,000
Balance: \$0

Activity Completion Date: 12/1/15

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Utilize EPA’s Assessed Watershed list and work with local partners to identify a list of targeted lakes	9/1/14	\$ 1,500
2. Secure the participation of up to 8 participating groups that have the highest potential for completing the program and implementing projects and identify possible agricultural partners.	5/31/16	\$8,500
3. Working with RMB Laboratories, secure a completed Lake Assessment or hire them to complete one for each of the targeted lakes	12/1/15	\$0

Activity Status as of January 1, 2015: Targeted lakes were identified in partnership with the Ottertail SWCD office. Parameters for selection include lakes that had a minimum level of citizen interest and involvement, lakes with needs that fit within the local water plan and lakes identified through the EPA’s Assessed Watershed list as being priority. The program was outlined at two public meetings held by the Ottertail SWCD and the Ottertail Coalition of Lake Associations to inform the public about the program and recruit participants. In addition, two news releases were written and published in the area newspaper, partnering with the West Central Initiative. An application for potential participants was developed by the Program Manager and made available at all meetings as well as online. Due to the large amount of lakes in the Ottertail County area and the benefits of working within one county, recruitment has so far focused on Ottertail County. While the number of participating groups is short of the targeted number of eight groups, follow up communications with potential groups has yielded three confirmed for participation in the program with more expected by the spring of 2015.

Activity Status as of July 1, 2015: The critical mass necessary to implement the full program (6-8 lake associations) through the recruitment efforts previously outlined did not result in the additional groups from Ottertail County that were sought during winter and spring of 2015. Because the initial assessment conducted prior to July 2014 that indicated that there would be sufficient interest within Ottertail did not yield the necessary results, the geographic scope of the program has been widened to include Becker County and conversations have begun with watershed organizations there. While this is somewhat concerning given the initial indications from outreach efforts done prior to implementation of the present grant were very positive, there does currently seem to be potential interest in the expanded areas.

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016: The final groups who signed on to the program were identified with assistance from East Otter Tail SWCD, Otter Tail County COLA, and RMB Laboratories. Lake Assessments for all four participating groups have been completed by RMB Laboratories. The assessments show that the lakes represented by the participating groups vary in their quality and issues, ranging from lakes of higher quality that need to be protected to lakes with serious internal loading and compounding issues.

Activity Status as of July 1 2016: The Project Manager continued efforts to try and recruit more lake associations. Despite many attempts and much effort to get more lake associations involved in the program, the Project Manager was not able to recruit any other participants by the time of the training.

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017: Activity 1 is complete. There was no further work in Activity 1 during this time period.

Final Report Summary: Recruitment for the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership program targeted lakes in Otter Tail County based on the level of citizen interest and involvement in protecting the lake, the lake’s needs and connection to the county water plan, and whether or not the lake was deemed a priority through the EPA’s Assessed Watershed list. Outreach for recruitment was done in partnership with Otter Tail SWCD, RMB Laboratories, and West Central Initiative and included two public meetings, two news releases, and considerable personal outreach to local communities. This outreach resulted in four lake associations signing up for the program, representing Wall Lake, Lake Lida, Big McDonald Lake, and Lake Six. Lake Assessments for all four participating groups were been completed by RMB Laboratories. The assessments show that the lakes represented by the participating groups vary in their quality and issues, ranging from lakes of higher quality that need to be protected to lakes with serious internal loading and compounding issues.

ACTIVITY 2: Implement program for all participating groups

Description: Working with groups and local partners, a two-day training will be organized and held that focuses on citizen engagement, translating science into action and creating and implementing a lake management plan. Representatives from all relevant local and state agencies (county boards, MN DNR, U of M Extension etc.) will be invited to present on the work that they do. The focus of the training will be to ensure that the leadership group representing each water body has the important relevant information on their lake, knowledge of and access to resource experts in the area, and a framework for prioritizing action through building a formal lake management plan.

After the training, all groups will work closely with the project manager to organize and facilitate a community input session. This meeting will gather as many individuals as possible from around the community to participate in a two-hour session that provides an opportunity for everyone to contribute input to the plan and distills their ideas into 2-3 top priorities for action. As a result of this meeting, each group will choose at least one priority item for action based both on the information from the lake assessment and the feedback received through the community input session.

The project manager will provide ongoing support to each group to assist in consolidating information into a clear plan and implementing the top-most priority. At each of four project milestones, each group will receive \$600 as it completes each those milestones, for a total of \$2400. An additional \$2,600 will be made available for the implementation of a priority that addresses the root cause of a water quality challenge, and not just a symptom (for example, shoreland restoration would be eligible because it reduces run-off, aquatic plant harvesting would not, because it is mainly done to improve recreation on a temporary basis). The project manager will work in tandem with a representative of West Central Initiative to determine which groups meet that criterion. **This \$5,000 made available to each group is a match provided by the West Central initiative and not from the LCCMR grant.**

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$49,000
Amount Spent: \$49,000
Balance: \$0

Activity Completion Date: 6/15/17

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Organize training logistics and prepare all necessary materials	1/15/16	\$10,000
2. Using the Lake Assessments as the focus, conduct two days of leadership training for all lake associations, including citizen engagement, translating science into action and creating and implementing a Lake Management Plan	3/15/16	\$10,022
3. Facilitate a visioning community meeting for each association to identify concerns, opportunities, assets, priorities and project timelines	6/15/16	\$15,189

4. All groups complete a first draft of their lake management plan	9/16/16	\$4,974
5. All groups have started implementation of one priority item	6/15/17	\$8,815

Activity Status as of January 1, 2015: This activity has not yet begun.

Activity Status as of July 1, 2015: This activity has not yet begun.

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016: With the necessary number of lake groups secured, planning for the 2-day training in Otter Tail County began in December of 2015, and is on track to be fully organized by the 1/15/16 completion date. Given the schedules of the participating groups, and when lake group leadership is expected to be available in Otter Tail County, the trainings will take place later in the spring that March 15. However, both the two-day training and community visioning session will be completed by or around June 15.

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016: In coordination with Don Hickman of the Initiative Foundation, the project manager organized logistics and prepared all necessary materials—including tailored template management plans for each group—for the two-day training, which was held April 7-8 in Pelican Rapids and was co-facilitated by Don Hickman. Following the training, the project manager coordinated with groups to schedule and promote their Community Visioning Sessions. Lake Six held their session June 3 with 43 in attendance; Lake Lida on June 10 with 42; and Wall Lake on June 11 with 49. The Project Manager facilitated each of those sessions, transcribed the input given, analyzed it, and prepared summaries that were shared with each group to use in crafting the action plans within their management plan. The Project Manager has already begun reviewing drafts of components of the plans, and these three groups are expected to finish in the given timeframe. The Project Manager is currently coordinating with the leadership of Big McDonald to plan for their Community Visioning Session scheduled August 13, and this group is not expected to meet the September 16 deadline. However, they are expected to finish before the end of the LCCMR grant.

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017: All four groups have now completed the Community Visioning sessions, and the Project Manager has received first drafts of all the action plan components of all four lake management plans. Prior to the August 13 session with Big McDonald Lake Improvement District, the Project Manager held in-person office hours with the other three groups to supplement the otherwise electronic and over-the-phone communication. Drafts or any information pulled together by that time was reviewed, as was the remainder of the project timeline. Drafts were also shared with Don Hickman of the Initiative Foundation, the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District, and other relevant professional staff to ensure that best practices were being followed and that the plans developed by the groups were in line with the County Water Plan. Delivery of drafts to the Project Manager was delayed from a couple of groups, which has delayed the return of their plans with edits and comments. At this time, two of the groups have received responses on their drafts, and the other two will be receiving those comments in the first quarter of 2017. All groups are still expected to be on time in completing their Lake Management Plans by the end of the grant period. The two groups who have already submitted drafts and received comments back have also already begun implementation of their plans based on high local interest and momentum. The Project Manager plans to work with the other two groups to identify projects to prioritize for implementation this spring and early summer in order to remain compliant with funding guidelines for the in-kind match from West Central Initiative.

Summary of the meetings and issues identified for each in the first drafts:

- **Lake Six:** The community visioning session was held on Friday June 3rd at Lake Five Resort just outside of Frazee. 43 were in attendance, and represented a mix of lakeshore homeowners (40% of whom consider themselves year-round residents), DNR staff, and SWCD staff, and homeowners from in the lakeshed and other nearby lakesheds. Their main goals at this time are:
 - Shoreline Stabilization
 - Strong Lake Association
 - Water Quality and Clarity

- Aquatic weed management
- Aquatic invasive species
- Public Access and Use of Lake
- Wildlife Habitat and Preservation of Natural Spaces
- **Lake Lida:** The community visioning session was held on Friday, June 10th at Lida Greens Golf Course in Pelican Rapids. 42 were in attendance, and represented a mix of lakeshore and lakeshed homeowners and SWCD staff. Their main goals at this time are:
 - Improve water quality of North and South Lida Lakes through education, decrease of runoff, wetland restorations, compliant ISTS, and more visible vegetation along the shoreline.
 - Enhance sense of community among property owners within the lakeshed of North and South Lida Lakes. Increase engagement of property owners in Association and implementation of this Plan.
 - Educate lake property owners and general public regarding recreational use of lake/rules and regulations, and investigate pros and cons of advocating to change the slot limit and viability of implementing change.
- **Wall Lake:** The community visioning session was held at Elks Point in Fergus Falls on Saturday, June 11. 49 were in attendance and largely represented homeowners and the sporting clubs as well as staff from EOTSWCD. Their main goals at this time are:
 - To preserve and protect the water quality of Wall Lake for current and future generations
 - To promote and educate Wall Lake users (residents and visitors) with water and boating safety on the lake
 - To preserve and protect the wildlife for all to enjoy for current and future generations
 - Work towards a membership goal of at least 75% of residents and active involvement within the lake association.
- **Big McDonald Lake:** The community visioning session was held at the Community Center in Dent on August 13. Around 50 participated from the community, including many on the lake as well as in the lakeshed and a few business owners. Their main goals at this time are:
 - To preserve and protect the water quality of Big McDonald Lake and its aquatic ecosystem for current and future generations.
 - To promote appropriate or safe recreational activities on or around Big McDonald Lake.

Final Report Summary: All four groups completed their Lake Management Plans and have begun implementation of at least one of the action strategies. All have received their \$5,000 in seed funds from West Central Initiative as well, which required that they initiated one of the action strategies and shared their final plan with East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District. Since the total number of groups was half of the available capacity, the Project Manager was able to spend more individualized time with each group and provide much more detailed support and guidance in responding to multiple draft iterations and helping to finish the plans. Additionally, since all groups were behind on the project timeline, more work was needed in the final grant reporting period to get all groups to the point of being able to submit final plans by the close of the grant period.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Upon approval of each participating group's final lake management plan by the project manager and local partner, copies will be distributed to all interested entities (lake association members, county managers, extension personnel etc.)

As groups implement a priority lake management action item, status of the projects will be featured in Freshwater Society's electronic communications and local partners will be encouraged to do the same.

Status as of January 1, 2015: This activity has not yet begun.

Status as of July 1, 2015: This activity has not yet begun.

Status as of January 1, 2016: This activity has not yet begun.

Status as of July 1 2016: This activity has not yet begun.

Status as of January 1, 2017: While the plans are not final, drafts of what the groups have completed to date have been given to several for review. This includes Don Hickman of the Initiative Foundation (relying on his countless years of experience working with lake groups to make sure that goals are realistic and that groups have all the resources they need to be successful, as well as the connection to the West Central Initiative Foundation for funding of lake groups at completion of the plan), East Otter Tail SWCD staff (for their technical expertise and possibility of resource provision, as well as to ensure that the plans are lining up with the County Water Plan), and Steve Woods of Freshwater Society (for quality control and suggestions, based on his extensive experience in writing water plans and unique knowledge of SWCDs).

Final Report Summary: As a requirement for the final distribution of funds from West Central Initiative, all groups needed to send their final Lake Management Plans to East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District. The groups are also planning to distribute the final versions to their member residents and local elected officials in one way or another. This may include a mailing of a portion of the plan, loading the final copy to the website, or providing a small supply to volunteer leaders within the association. Additionally, the Project Manager sent final plans to West Central Initiative so they could see how the funding was going to be used. Freshwater Society will also keep copies of the plan on file to be given to other interested persons upon request.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$43,265 <u>\$45,051</u>	1 project Manager at .2 FTE for 3 years Management, training, facilitation, plan review and BMP implementation assistance.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$9,500	1 contract with the Initiative Foundation for training and management support and management plan review.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 400	CD ROMs, training workbooks, , name tags, pens, flip chart paper and markers
Printing:	\$ 1,200	Lake management plan drafts and final copies
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 4,635 <u>\$ 2,849</u>	Mileage, Lodging and meals
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 59,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 0.6 FTE

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 0.04 FTE

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
West Central Initiative (Cash support)	\$ 40,000	\$0	Lake project implementation
Lake Association match	\$ 40,000	\$0	Lake project implementation; cash and in-kind support
Freshwater Society (In kind support)	\$ 5,440	\$0	Additional project management and communications
West Central Initiative (In kind support)	\$ 5,600	\$0	Meeting space, project support
RMB Laboratories (In kind support)	\$ 960	\$0	Consulting an existing lake assessments
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 92,000	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:

- Lake Associations: Providing volunteer support and matching funds for lake project implementation.
- West Central Initiative: Providing \$40,000 in matching funds for lake project implementation and \$5,600 for in-kind support.

Project Partners Receiving Funds:

- Initiative Foundation: \$9500 for training, management support and lake management plan review.
- RMB Laboratories: \$5,000 for new lake assessments.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: These citizens groups represent an additional and often untapped asset for agencies and organizations responsible for managing water resources. The strengthened partnerships that this program creates, along with the on-the-ground-projects that are leveraged through funding from our partner at West Central Initiative, increase water quality protection and build community capacity to implement additional protections.

Specifically, by helping to create or further develop mutually beneficial relationships between citizen organizations and the local officials who oversee water resource management, both groups get access to resources that they might not otherwise have had access to. Citizens get the resource expertise along with an elevated credibility with local government and agencies, and those same local officials get access to volunteer efforts that help them accomplish objectives that limited resources might have otherwise put out of their reach.

Through strategic targeting of groups, it is also possible to build a larger unified effort through several groups working together on common interests, as through a COLA, or Coalition of Lake Associations. This brings a more unified constituency to local officials and helps more efficiently leverage resources, including funding.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2008 or FY09	M.L. 2009 or FY10	M.L. 2010 or FY11	M.L. 2011 or FY12-13	M.L. 2013 or FY14
Freshwater Society (In-kind)					\$4,080

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. VISUAL ELEMENT or MAP(S): See attached word cloud

X. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET: N/A

XI. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than January 1, 2015; July 1, 2015; January 1, 2016; July 1, 2016; and January 1, 2017. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2017.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund									
M.L. 2014 Project Budget									
Project Title: Reducing Lake Quality Impairments Through Citizen Action									
Legal Citation: M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 03k									
Project Manager: Jen Kader									
Organization: Freshwater Society									
M.L. 2014 ENRTF Appropriation: \$59,000									
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30 2017									
Date of Report: August 11, 2017									
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Activity 1 Budget 1/28/16	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Revised Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Group selection and lake assessment procurement			Implement program for all participating groups					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)									
Jen Kader, Project Manager, 14% benefits 86% salary .2 FTE for 3 years	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0	\$34,599	\$36,551	\$36,551	\$0	\$45,051	\$0
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts									
Initiative Foundation. Consultant, Don Hickman. Training, management support and lake management plan review.				\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$0	\$9,500	\$0
RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.: Lake assesment documents	\$0	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
Equipment/Tools/Supplies									
CD ROMs, name tags, pens, flip chart paper and markers				\$400	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$400	\$0
Printing									
training workbooks, lake management plan drafts and final copies.				\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	\$0
Travel expenses in Minnesota									
Mileage, lodging, meals for travel to and between participating groups	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$3,304	\$1,349	\$1,349	\$0	\$2,849	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$0	\$59,000	\$0

recreational

wall vegetation implementation
fergus represented

lakeshore

education compliant

shoreline

goals enhance

boating

sporting weed preservation

educate

access involvement

attendance management regulations

homeowners

session

community

residents

lake

greens

big

dnr

swcd

safe

sense

south

held

north

visioning

future property

work restorations

protect

pelican resort

runoff habitat

strong

owners

decrease

implementing

limit safety

advocating

association

mcdonald

activities

aquatic quality

wetland

generations

wildlife lida

membership including

visitors

preserve

investigate

participated

improve

change

lakeshed

mix

current

invasive

goal species

frazee

golf

promote

friday

visible

main

nearby

august

enjoy

clubs

point

staff

round

clearly

slot

spaces

public

falls

dent

business

increase

cons

clubs

regulations

water lakes

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elks

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activities