



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2014 Work Plan

Date of Report: January 14, 2014
Date of Next Status Update Report: January 1, 2015
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2017
Does this submission include an amendment request? __

PROJECT TITLE: Reducing lake quality impairments through citizen action

Project Manager: Alex Gehrig
Organization: Freshwater Society
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Location: Otter Tail, Douglas, Becker and Grant counties

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

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:

Project Status as of July 1, 2015:

Project Status as of January 1, 2016:

Project Status as of July 1 2016:

Project Status as of January 1, 2017:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

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: \$ 0
Balance: \$10,000

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.	11/1/14	\$ 3,500
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	\$ 5,000

Activity Status as of January 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of July 1 2016:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017:

Final Report Summary:

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: \$ 0
Balance: \$49,000

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:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of July 1 2016:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017:

Final Report Summary:

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:

Status as of July 1, 2015:

Status as of January 1, 2016:

Status as of July 1 2016:

Status as of January 1, 2017:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 38,265	1 project Manager at .2 FTE for 3 years Management, training, facilitation, plan review and BMP implementation assistance.
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 14,500	1 contract with the Initiative Foundation for training and management support and management plan review. 1 contract with RMB laboratories to provide lake assessments for all participating lake groups.
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	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 Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 0.6 FTE

Number of Full-time Equivalents (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 other wise 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 graphic

X. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET: N/A

XI. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

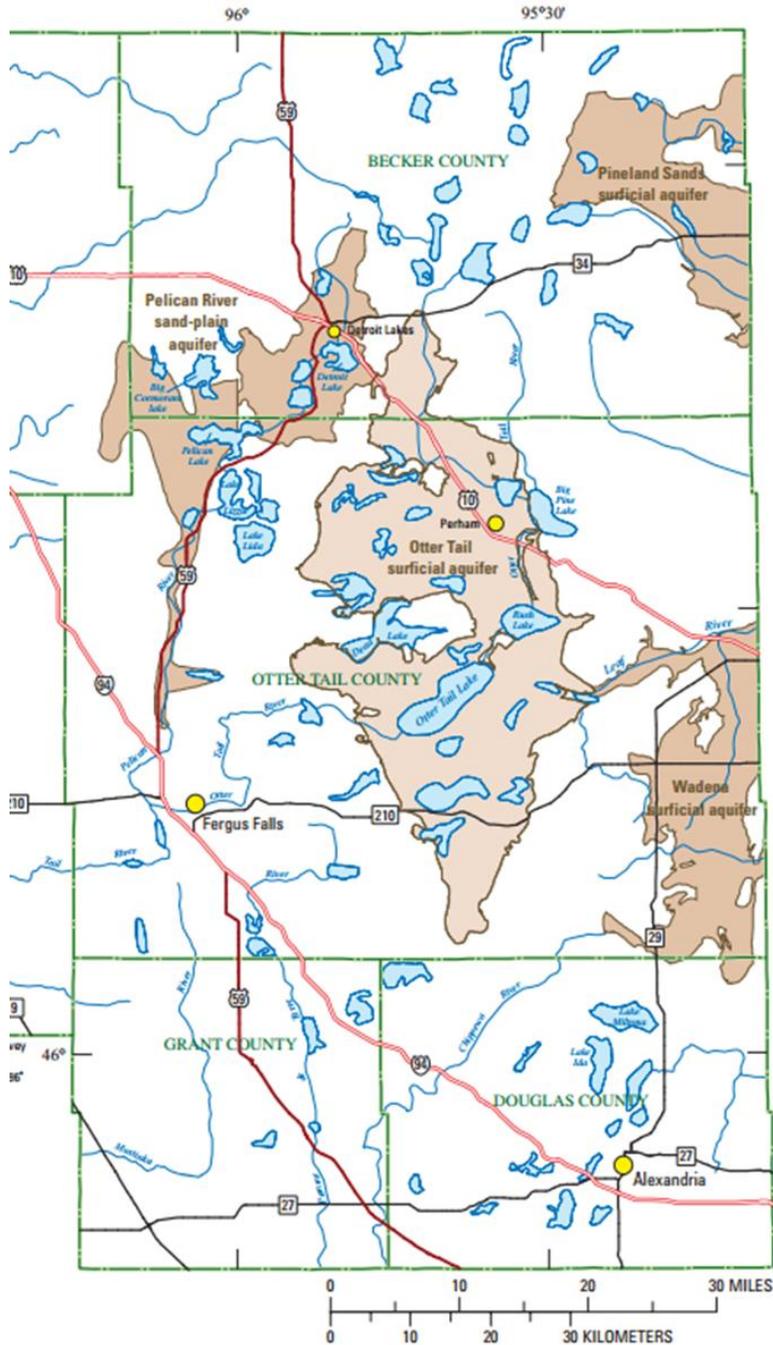
XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

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: Alex Gehrig								
Organization: Freshwater Society								
M.L. 2014 ENRTF Appropriation: \$59,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30 2017								
Date of Report: January 14, 2014								

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	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)								
Alex Gehrig, Project Manager, 14% benefits 86% salary .2 FTE for 3 years	\$3,666	\$0	\$3,666	\$34,599	\$0	\$34,599	\$38,265	\$38,265
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts								
Initiative Foundation. Consultant, Don Hickman. Training, management support and lake management plan review.				\$9,500	\$0	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500
RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.: Lake assesment documents	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000				\$5,000	\$5,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies								
CD ROMs, name tags, pens, flip chart paper and markers				\$400	\$0	\$400	\$400	\$400
Printing								
training workbooks, lake management plan drafts and final copies,				\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Travel expenses in Minnesota								
Mileage, lodging, meals for travel to and between participating groups	\$1,334	\$0	\$1,334	\$3,301	\$0	\$3,301	\$4,635	\$4,635
COLUMN TOTAL	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$49,000	\$0	\$49,000	\$59,000	\$59,000



Reducing lake quality impairments through citizen actions

Geographic Scope and Program Outline

Program Outline

1. Work with both West Central Initiative to identify eight lake groups to participate in program and with RMB laboratories to establish Lake Assessments for all targeted water bodies. Each participating lake association is expected to send 5-8 persons to each of the two training sessions in Step #2 (below).

2. Participants representing each lake group attend two days of leadership training on:

- Communication and effective small group process skills;
- Historic/existing conditions of their water body;
- Developing a strategic Lake Management Plan.
- Meet technical resource experts and learn of other sources of assistance and funding.

3. Each group hosts an inclusive community-wide facilitated planning session to identify the concerns, opportunities, assets, priorities, and projects that citizens will work on.

4. Results of the visioning session are combined with a summary of historic and existing conditions, as well as realistic goals and action plans to form a Lake Management Plan.

5. As the associations complete implementation of high priority action items they become official "graduates" of the program.

6. Non-state partner match provides up to \$5,000 to each group for implementation of highest priority activities.

