



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2015 Work Plan

Date of Report: December 5, 2014

Date of Next Status Update Report: January 1, 2016

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2018

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Shoreland Protection for the Lower St. Croix River

Project Manager: Deb Ryun

Organization: St. Croix River Association

Mailing Address: PO Box 655

City/State/Zip Code: St. Croix Falls, WI 54020

Telephone Number: (715) 483-3300

Email Address: debryun@scramail.com

Web Address: www.stcroixriverassociation.org

Location: Washington and Chisago Counties

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$190,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$190,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 8j

Appropriation Language:

\$190,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the St. Croix River Association to provide technical assistance to landowners, local governments, realtors, and developers on shoreland conservation and protection of the lower St. Croix River. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Shoreland Protection for the Lower St. Croix River

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: In 1972 the lower St. Croix River became one of the few national wild and scenic rivers. Minnesota adopted zoning standards for a strip of land along the St. Croix River's shores about 1000' deep. Local governments administer the zoning rules designed to preserve the wild and scenic character. Development pressure has been constant. Overtime the desire to live in significantly larger homes, and an insufficient understanding of the unique protection status, has led to conflicts and weakening of adherence to established rules designed to protect bluffs and shoreland. This buffer is in decline and action is needed now to ensure its integrity. Without a stable shoreline and deep rooted vegetation to filter and decrease runoff from the land, the water quality of the river will be in jeopardy.

The Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River (LSCWSR) is federally designated and state managed; it is about 52 miles long, and ¼ mile wide, and will be the focus of this project. This heavily visited National Park is a high quality fishery, offers spectacular natural views and has high recreational value. The overarching goal is to protect, improve and restore natural vegetation adjacent to the St. Croix River, to protect water quality, provide wildlife habitat and retain the magnificent views from this nationally designated, wild and scenic river.

By accepting shared River management responsibility, stakeholders will improve shoreland protection, and increase natural landscape along the LSCWSR. The newly created LSCWSR protection team will guide the process for local government officials to improve and uphold river friendly ordinances. Realtors will have the training to ensure new homeowners are well aware of the restrictions with homes along the Riverway. By adhering to the ordinances, citizens will be the first line of defense for this thin ribbon of protection. This project is designed to defend the buffer, if preserved will continue to protect water quality, provide habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife, and maintain a relatively unspoiled view for the millions of visitors drawn to the Riverway.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 1, 2016:

Project Status as of July 1, 2016:

Project Status as of January 1, 2017:

Project Status as of July 1, 2017:

Project Status as of January 1, 2018:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Landowner Land and Water Protection

Description:

The project coordinator will recruit landowners from the eighteen lower riverway communities to participate in and help form the LSCWSR Protection Team. Through active participation in the project team, landowners will be invested in guiding the project as well as learn the importance of a shoreline rich in native and deep rooted natural vegetation, keeping impervious surfaces to a minimum and maintaining the integrity of natural bluffland.

In combination with Protection Team meetings, a multifaceted landowner outreach strategy will be developed and executed. It is critical to reinforce not only legal requirements, but clearly illustrate the multiple benefits bluffland and shoreland protections provide for water quality and land protection, as well as the aesthetic value. Landowners from Taylors Falls south to the National Park Boundary just south of Arcola will be contacted about meeting and improving upon scenic easement requirements, and landowner from the Minnesota State Management Boundary south to Hastings (lower 25 miles) will focus on meeting and improving upon zoning ordinances.

Specific activities include the development of educational materials for distribution through various avenues, such as personal contacts, mailings and web-based media. A set of at least four training sessions will provide landowners with tools and techniques to protect their land investments for wildlife habitat and shoreline integrity. As a result of education and outreach efforts in the community, landowners will engage and be motivated to follow through with protection and restoration activities on their land, ultimately leading to fewer ordinance variance requests. Existing partnerships with implementation agencies, such as the local soil and water conservation office, are strong in this area. Landowners interested in restoration and protection activities will be directed to these local agencies for specific technical assistance, and possible cost share programs to encourage on the ground action.

The LSCWSR Protection Team will meet on a regular quarterly to bi-monthly basis through the life of the project, and this team will influence all aspects of the outreach and implementation strategies.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

Funds will pay for the project coordinator to achieve outcome

ENRTF Budget: \$ 76,120

Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 76,120

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Landowners are a part of the LSCWSR protection team that develops outreach strategies ; outreach plan is completed	6/30/2016
2. Outreach and training materials for landowners to protect the wild and scenic values are developed	12/31/2016
3. All, approximately 700, landowners with parcels on the river, subject to Federal Lower Saint Croix River Act ordinances will be contacted and receive information regarding LSCWSR shoreland ordinance rules, protection obligations and significance of the ordinances.	12/31/2017
4. All, approximately 315, landowners with active National Park Service easements on their properties will be contacted and receive information regarding the terms of their easements with an explanation of requirements and implications of easements.	12/31/2017
5. Coordinator will provide at least four landowner training sessions on habitat improvement techniques, bluff, shoreland protection and viewshed protection measures	4/30/2018
6. Coordinator will work with a minimum of 10 landowners to employ protection or restoration work.	4/30/2018
7. Coordinator will ensure information about this project will be publicized to promote transparency and local support; with at least 3 news releases, and two radio interviews, and information is available on the SCRA website	4/30/2018

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017

Activity Status as of July 1, 2017

Activity Status as of January 1, 2018

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Local Government Land and Water Protection

Description:

The project coordinator will work to strengthen partnerships between local governments and citizens for land and water protection on the lower riverway. The coordinator will engage with the eighteen cities and townships, and attend land use hearings and work sessions related to LSCWSR within the project area. All community leaders located along the last 25 miles of the Riverway in the state managed zone will be invited and encouraged to participate in the LSCWSR Partnership Team. The ultimate goal of this work is for communities and elected officials to create uniformity in the ordinances and enforcement of rules and ordinances for Riverway protection.

At least two trainings will be created to increase the knowledge of all local government leaders on wild and scenic values and create more consistency in shoreline zoning ordinances amongst the communities of the LSCWSR. Through the development of trainings and printed materials, identifying and utilizing the most responsible model ordinances for development, elected officials and decision makers will receive the necessary information to fully review current ordinances in the context of shoreland protection. Ultimately, the goal is to promote adoption of consistent ordinances, and elected officials will be prepared to approve only the variances that adequately uphold the laws and values of the Riverway. Ideally, a team with representatives of each of the communities will make recommendations for variance requests within the state managed zone.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

Funds will pay for the project coordinator to achieve outcome

ENRTF Budget: \$ 66,305

Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 66,305

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Local governments are part of the LSCWSR protection team that develops outreach strategies; outreach plan is completed	6/30/2016
2. Coordinator ensures at least two workshops for elected officials to promote understanding of LSCWSR protection obligations and significance are created and implemented	12/31/2016
3. Coordinator convenes local government leaders to review current ordinances to ensure they are adequate and consistent with Riverway law and values, and meet the local needs	12/31/2017
4. Coordinator works with LSCWSR protection team to create consistency between local governments in enforcement of ordinances, and where possible create ordinances that are consistent between communities	4/30/2018

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017

Activity Status as of July 1, 2017

Activity Status as of January 1, 2018

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 3: Land and Water Protection Tools for Professionals

Description:

The project coordinator will work to build relationships with realtors, developers, builders, architects and other development professionals who do business in the LSCWSR to enlist their participation in the LSCWSR Protection Team and overall project activities. The coordinator will create a database of these professionals and focus efforts on the firms that do the majority of the sales in the LSCWSR. A marketing strategy and printed materials geared towards this professional group will be created to build awareness of the obligations and significance of protecting the shoreland and natural habitat on lands adjacent to the LSCWSR.

Natural Shoreline enhancement and protection strategies will be engaged. Realtors will be equipped with fact sheets available for potential buyers regarding LSCWSR special ordinances and easement, focusing on the obligations and the importance of maintaining the wild and scenic values. Developers and contractors will receive training in LSCWSR ordinance rules as well as methods they can employ to meet and enhance expectations. These professionals will be enlisted to recruit additional professionals in their field to participate in trainings that will result in development and redevelopment that is done in harmony with the wild and scenic Riverway values. Ultimately, this underutilized group of partners is crucial to long-term viability of maintaining the wild and scenic values along the St. Croix.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

Funds will pay for the project coordinator to achieve outcome

ENRTF Budget: \$ 47,575

Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 47,575

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Realtors and developers are part of the LSCWSR protection team that develops outreach strategies; outreach plan is completed	6/30/2016
2. Client factsheets outlining ordinance or easement obligations and benefits are developed and disseminated; realtors and developers are engaged and conversant in these client materials	8/31/2017
3. Coordinator ensures engaged realtors & developers in the LSCWSR have the tools needed to recruit like professionals, expanding the reach of the project to "institutionalize" promoted methods	12/31/2017
4. Coordinator completes at least a set of two realtor & developer training sessions, focused on wild and scenic values and importance, ordinance compliance, and methods to minimize bluff and shoreland disturbance as well as viewshed protection	4/30/2018
5. Coordinator will ensure information about natural bluff and shore land development and viewshed protection will be widely distributed to encourage adoption; with at least	4/30/2018

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017

Activity Status as of July 1, 2017

Activity Status as of January 1, 2018

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Information about the project will be shared via multiple delivery mechanisms. The main method will be the SCRA website (www.stcroixriverassociation.org) and quarterly newsletter. Additional outreach efforts will include Facebook updates, articles in local papers, and presentations. Successful completion of the project will stimulate and inform similar efforts in Wisconsin. SCRA will continue to facilitate coordinated work across the basin and leverage additional funding.

Status as of January 1, 2016

Status as of July 1, 2016

Status as of January 1, 2017

Status as of July 1, 2017

Status as of January 1, 2018

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 187,500	Project manager/coordinator for project activities, 1FTE for 3 years
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$2,500	4,464 miles at \$0.56/mile for data gathering, meeting with partners, implementing training sessions, landowner outreach and easement activities
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$190,000	

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: 3 FTEs

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
St. Croix River Association staff time - cash	\$40,000	\$	SCRA administrative and general project support
State			
	\$	\$	
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$40,000	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

SCRA will hire a land protection steward to coordinate and manage this project, and develop the team to complete the work strategies and long term goals. No other partner requests funds from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources area hydrologist (currently Molly Shodeen) and the land use section (currently Jennifer Shillcox) and the National Park Service lands and law enforcement staff, currently Laura Hojem & Mat Jacobsen, will provide technical support. They are key partners on the project design team. Other partners already identified include Lee Sather with the Baglio Real Estate Group, and Bill Palmquist, city council member and landowner in Afton, MN.

Project Partner Receiving Funds

- St. Croix River Association, project management & coordination, long-term program implementation

Project Partner Not Receiving Funds

(All will provide technical support, be part of the LSCWSR protection team, and implement strategies)

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Baglio Real Estate Group
- Local Units of Government
- National Park Service at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Homeowners in the 52 by ¼ mile protected zone, constituting the LSCWSR

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

In the long term, this shoreland protection program will protect, improve and restore natural vegetation adjacent to the St. Croix River, to protect water quality, provide wildlife habitat and retain the magnificent views from this nationally designated, wild and scenic river. We will create a citizen team that is the first line of defense for the St. Croix River, committed to the long-term protection of the LSCWSR. Once the program is established, we will work with other government and non-government organizations that can provide financial and technical support to landowners for permanent land protection, and habitat restoration services. This project has potential to be highly visible to the public, and if successful it could be duplicated along any waterway.

C. Funding History: N/A

VIII. FEE TITLE ACQUISITION/CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Parcel List: N/A

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information: N/A

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See attached map of project area.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

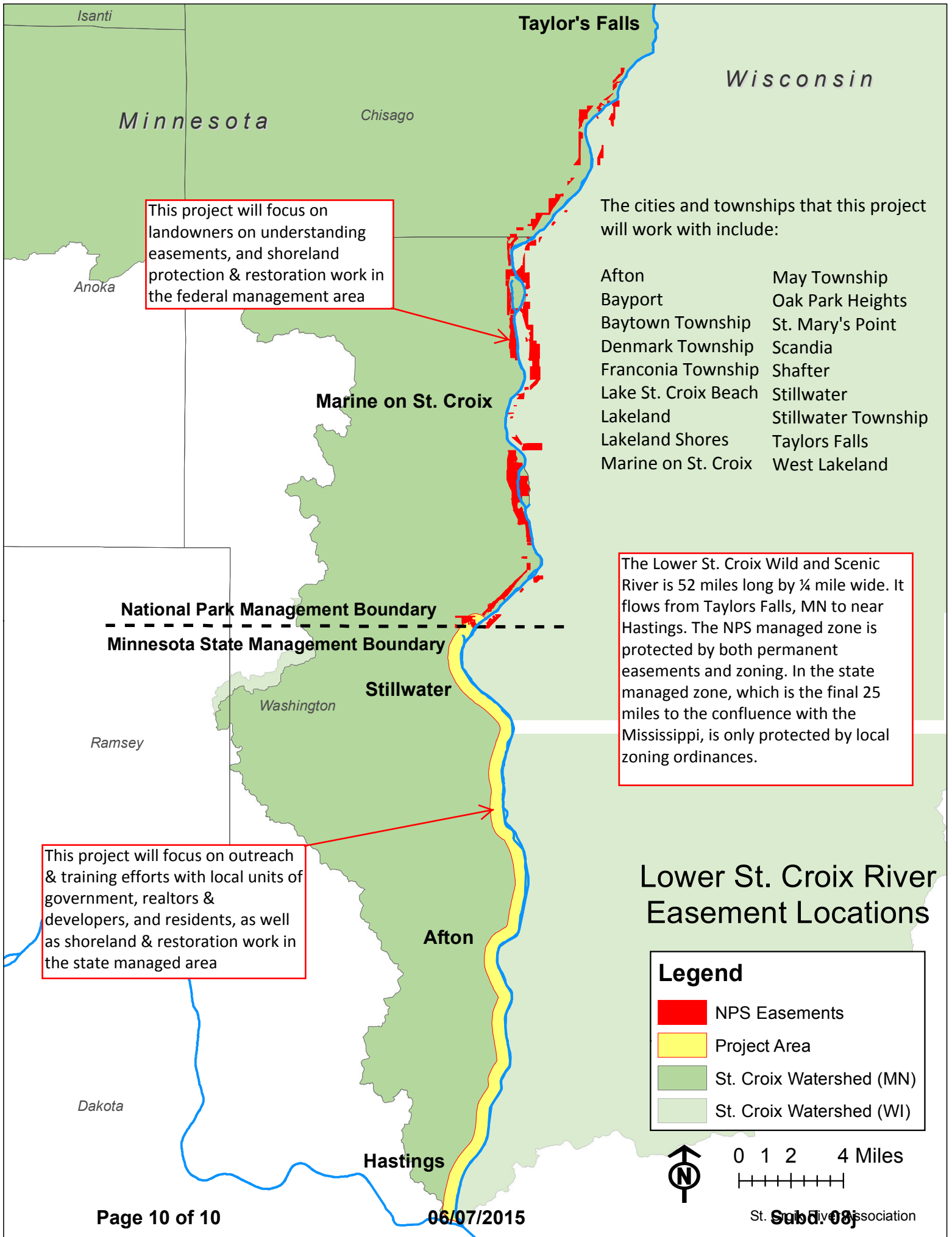
Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than July 2015, January 2016, July 2016, January 2017, July 2017, and January 2018. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2018.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2015 Project Budget

Project Title: Shoreland Protection for the Lower St. Croix River
Legal Citation: *Fill in your project's legal citation from the appropriation language - this will occur after the 2015 legislative session.*
Project Manager: Deb Ryun
Organization: St. Croix River Association
M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$190,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2018
Date of Report: 10/20/2014

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Landowner Land & Water Protection			Government Land & Water Protection			Realtor & Developer Land & Water Protection				
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$75,120	\$0	\$75,120	\$65,505	\$0	\$65,505	\$46,875	\$0	\$46,875	\$187,500	\$187,500
Project Manager and Coordinator: (75% Salary, 25% Benefits) 1 FTE for three years											
Travel expenses in Minnesota											
Mileage \$2,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$800	\$0	\$800	\$700	\$0	\$700	\$2,500	\$2,500
COLUMN TOTAL	\$76,120	\$0	\$76,120	\$66,305	\$0	\$66,305	\$47,575	\$0	\$47,575	\$190,000	\$190,000



This project will focus on landowners on understanding easements, and shoreland protection & restoration work in the federal management area

The cities and townships that this project will work with include:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Afton | May Township |
| Bayport | Oak Park Heights |
| Baytown Township | St. Mary's Point |
| Denmark Township | Scandia |
| Franconia Township | Shafter |
| Lake St. Croix Beach | Stillwater |
| Lakeland | Stillwater Township |
| Lakeland Shores | Taylor's Falls |
| Marine on St. Croix | West Lakeland |

The Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River is 52 miles long by ¼ mile wide. It flows from Taylor's Falls, MN to near Hastings. The NPS managed zone is protected by both permanent easements and zoning. In the state managed zone, which is the final 25 miles to the confluence with the Mississippi, is only protected by local zoning ordinances.

Lower St. Croix River Easement Locations

Legend

- NPS Easements
- Project Area
- St. Croix Watershed (MN)
- St. Croix Watershed (WI)

This project will focus on outreach & training efforts with local units of government, realtors & developers, and residents, as well as shoreland & restoration work in the state managed area