



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

Date of Report: May 14, 2015

Date of Next Status Update Report: February 1, 2016

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2018

Does this submission include an amendment request? NO

PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Coordination and Mapping and Conservation Easements

Project Manager: Kris Larson

Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

Mailing Address: 2356 University Avenue W., Suite 240

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55114

Telephone Number: (651) 647-9590

Email Address: kl Larson@mnland.org

Web Address: www.mnland.org

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

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation: \$515,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$515,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e

Appropriation Language:

\$515,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust for the eighth phase of the Metropolitan Conservation Corridors partnership to provide coordination and mapping for the partnership and to acquire permanent conservation easements on at least 120 acres of strategic ecological landscapes to protect priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties. A list of proposed easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. 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. Up to \$40,000 may be used for coordination and mapping for the Metro Conservation Corridors. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. A list of proposed easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2018, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Coordination and Mapping and Conservation Easements

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates protection and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This corridor network stretches from the area’s urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. More recently, the Land Trust has been incorporating new criteria in its project selection methodology, planning and mapping, including the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) and the Impaired Waters data layer into the existing Metro Corridors priorities map. The new data selection criteria will allow the Land Trust to prioritize high-quality habitat that provides multiple benefits such as water quality, scenic beauty, outdoor opportunities, habitat for pollinators and species in greatest conservation need, and potential for high quality restoration via Ecological Landscapes partner organizations.

This project addresses several recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

As part of the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership, the Minnesota Land Trust has worked extensively in the greater Twin Cities area since 1992 to permanently protect high-quality nature habitat with an emphasis on private landowner conservation through conservation easements. This strategy has been acknowledged by a variety of stakeholders and plans, including the LCCMR 6-year Strategic Plan and 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. To date, the Minnesota Land Trust has permanently protected 3,989 acres of high-quality habitats under the Metro Conservation Corridors program. Overall, Minnesota Land Trust has protected approximately 44,544 acres of habitats statewide.

The goal of Ecological Landscapes is to permanently protect strategic lands that contribute to a regionally connected network of critical habitat within the greater Twin Cities area, promote biodiversity, provide outdoor-based opportunities for metro area children and help maintain water quality of the region’s most important rivers, lakes, and streams. To this end, the Land Trust has been incorporating new criteria in its selection methodology, including the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) and the Impaired Waters data layer into the existing Metro Corridors priorities map. The new data selection criteria will allow the Land Trust to prioritize high-quality habitat that provides multiple benefits such as water quality, scenic beauty, outdoor opportunities, habitat for pollinators and species in greatest conservation need, and potential for high quality restoration via Ecological Landscapes partner organizations.

The Land Trust works only with perpetual conservation easements. These easements prohibit land uses such as row cropping or real estate development that negatively affect important habitat, water quality and other conservation values. In addition, the easements require the land to be managed according to approved habitat management plans 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. These easements are monitored annually and enforced as necessary under the Land Trust’s comprehensive

conservation easement monitoring, management, and enforcement program funded in part through the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund. Grant funds may also be requested for the dedicated Stewardship and Enforcement Fund on a project-by-project basis in accordance with LCCMR-approved policies and procedures. The Land Trust will report to LCCMR annually on the status of the Stewardship and Enforcement Fund and the easements acquired with funds from this grant.

Activity 1 of this project provides coordination and leadership for the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership by Minnesota Land Trust staff. Activity 2 of the project brings improved prioritization through enhanced data base development and mapping of the corridors. Activity 3 is specific to Minnesota Land Trust, and includes 1) contacting and negotiating with interested landowners; 2) drafting and completing conservation easements; 3) documenting property conditions and developing habitat management plans; and 4) dedicating funds for the perpetual monitoring, management and enforcement of those easements.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of February 1, 2016:

Project Status as of August 1, 2016:

Project Status as of February 1, 2017:

Project Status as of August 1, 2017:

Project Status as of February 1, 2018:

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping and Outreach

Description: The Minnesota Land Trust will provide Metro Conservation Corridors coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 15,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work	June 30, 2018	\$ 3,000
2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly	June 30, 2018	\$ 6,000
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners with number of activities and target audiences	June 30, 2018	\$ 6,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Partnership Mapping and Database Management

Description: Activity 2 will provide management of and updates to the MeCC GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as mapping needs of the partnership. Enhanced database development and mapping of the corridors will be provided by a contracted entity such as the MN DNR, Minnesota Information Technology (MN.IT) or a different third-party entity capable of working with the existing datasets and online mapping systems.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 15,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Maintain current records of accomplishments in database	June 30, 2018	\$ 15,000

ACTIVITY 3: Permanent Protection of Ecological Landscapes

Description: The Land Trust will protect critical habitat within the mapped corridors by: 1) contacting landowners; 2) negotiating and completing permanent conservation easements on 120 acres of land (including documenting property conditions and creating habitat 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. Easement purchases under this program will strive to maximize the donative generosity of landowners—thereby stretching out the state funding further—with a goal of paying no more than 50% of land value in total for each of any easements completed. 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. If new projects are identified, MLT will seek amendments of the work plan to request additions to the approved project list. We will continually evaluate potential projects and pursue those that protect the highest quality habitat and maximize public benefit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 485,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 485,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Protect 120 acres by completing conservation easements by identifying and contacting landowners, completing all components of conservation easement projects, developing habitat management plans, and conducting long-term conservation easement management, monitoring, and enforcement.	June 30, 2018	\$ 485,000

Activity Status as of February 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of August 1, 2017:

Activity Status as of February 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Metro Conservation Corridors partnership will periodically distribute information about the program and accomplishments through the various communication methods of our partner organizations and as we conduct coordinated outreach efforts. As projects are completed, the partners involved will publicize accomplishments through press releases and organization newsletters and websites. The MeCC database includes a public web-based map that displays accomplishments. Additionally, the partnership plans to update the MeCC section on the DNR’s website and share mapping data at public presentations.

Additionally, the Land Trust will disseminate results of our permanent habitat protection efforts 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, 2016:

Status as of August 1, 2016:

Status as of February 1, 2017:

Status as of August 1, 2017:

Status as of February 1, 2018:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Overview Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 100,000	[Overall, Mapping and Coordination: \$15,000] MLT conservation and support staff expenses including salaries and benefits to manage and coordinate the program for three years. [Ecological Landscapes: \$85,000] Staff expenses including salaries and benefits for approximately .33 FTE per year for 3 years (1 FTE total) as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.4

		FTE), 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.*
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 82,000	[Overall, Mapping and Coordination: \$15,000] MLT anticipated contract expenses include contracting database development and mapping of the corridors with an entity such as the MN DNR, Minnesota Information Technology (MN.IT) or a different third-party entity capable of working with the existing datasets and online mapping systems. [Ecological Landscapes: \$67,000] MLT anticipated contract expenses include title reports and closing costs, mapping, mineral assessments where appropriate, appraisals, habitat management plans, and land surveys. When efficiencies can be gained from contracting legal and/or project management contract support, MLT anticipates pursuing those options as well.
Easement Acquisition:	\$ 330,000	An estimated 120 acres of permanent easements will be held by the Minnesota Land Trust. As a part of each acquisition, the Land Trust will seek a donation from landowners in order to cover project costs related to long-term easement stewardship and monitoring. Stewardship and monitoring costs will be itemized and substantiated using MLT's Project Cost Analysis worksheet.
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 3,000	Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. Up to \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.55 per mile and \$300 for meals. Allowable travel expenses are in keeping with the DNR Commissioners plan.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:		\$ 515,000

*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 \$5,000: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 1.1 FTE over 3 years (i.e., 0.1 FTE per year combined between MLT staff and contractors on Overall, Mapping and Coordination plus 0.33 FTE per year on Permanently Protection Ecological Landscapes)

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF

Appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Although we do not anticipate any other cash funds at this time, we do anticipate providing leverage through the value of easements donated to the Land Trust under this project. Any reported donated value will be substantiated by an appraisal.

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: The Land Trust and DNR, MN.IT, or a different third-party entity capable of working with the existing datasets and online mapping systems are the only entities receiving funds for coordination and mapping, however, work is coordinated with other Metro Conservation Corridors partners (please see the overall work plan for list of project partners). 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, riparian shorelines, 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.

Additionally, This project advances and continually informs the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat. The Land Trust has been incorporating new criteria in its selection methodology, including the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System (MLCCS) and the Impaired Waters data layer into the existing Metro Corridors priorities map. The new data selection criteria will allow the Land Trust to prioritize high-quality habitat that provides multiple benefits such as water quality, scenic beauty, outdoor opportunities, habitat for pollinators and species in greatest conservation need, and potential for high quality restoration via Ecological Landscapes partner organizations.

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. Funding History:

Funding Source and Use of Funds	Funding Timeframe	\$ Amount
ENRTF - MeCC	M.L. 2007	\$ 134,000
ENRTF - MeCC	M.L. 2008	\$ 225,000
ENRTF - MeCC	M.L. 2009	\$ 250,000
ENRTF - MeCC	M.L. 2010	\$ 485,000
ENRTF - MeCC	M.L. 2011	\$ 265,000
ENRTF - MeCC	M.L. 2013	\$ 300,000

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

A. Parcel List: See Acquisition List Attachment

B. Acquisition/Restoration Information:

Conservation Easement Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

Following initial outreach and evaluation, suitable conservation easement projects are subjected to several rounds of review and approval. These stages of critical review ensure the conservation values of any particular project are present and worthy of protection.

1. First, the MLT project manager meets with a landowner, assesses natural resources present on a property, gathers information and conducts research into the conservation values present.
2. The project manager then presents the project to a meeting of the full MLT conservation staff for review, analysis and discussion.
3. If the project is recommended to move forward, the project manager presents the project to the MLT Conservation Committee, a subset of the board of directors and other conservation professionals.
4. If the Conservation Committee recommends the project to the full MLT board of directors, the board ultimately makes the final approval of accepting the easement or not.
5. Staff also completes a conservation easement checklist per LCCMR requirements.
6. LCCMR-funded projects are submitted to the DNR for DNR Commissioner approval.
7. Finally, MLT legal staff completes an exhaustive review of the project documentation and the landowners themselves complete an independent legal review.

When several projects are advanced for approval, MLT staff uses the following criteria to rank and prioritize conservation easement opportunities:

1. Conservation values are assessed based on the ecology, natural resources and habitat potential of the particular site and are ranked higher when they include high quality resources and threatened or rare habitat types.
2. The uniqueness of the resources present on a particular site are weighed against each other and ranked higher when resources present are uniquely rare and in high need of preservation.
3. Each property is evaluated for its inclusion in the Minnesota County Biological Survey or similar natural resource inventories, which have already demonstrated the high resources values as worthy of protection.
4. Properties are assessed for their connectivity to other preserved parcels and are prioritized when adjacency to existing preserved land is determined.
5. Inclusion of a particular property in local, regional or state conservation plans elevates the urgency for protection.
6. The potential for ecological and scenic benefits from their preservation are assessed and a project will be ranked higher when these public benefits have been demonstrated as worthy of protection.

Secondarily, MLT staff and board consider landowner readiness to proceed with a project, including family demands, family agreement, and landowner health and urgency to prioritize projects. Additionally, available project funding and the landowner's willingness to donate value or contribute funds to cover transactional costs and/or stewardship needs can contribute to a project being highly prioritized.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified. Include a link to the plan if one is available.

Numerous strategic conservation plans identify the use of a conservation easement as an important tool in protecting habitat and water quality, as part of a suite of conservation options. Plans that identify the value of conservation easements express a consensus that an easement is an important component of protecting ecosystems services and public good.

Plans and statute that identify priority conservation easement projects and support the use of conservation easements in their protection include:

- Local County Comprehensive Plans (vary by Minnesota county)
- Local County Comprehensive Water Plans (vary by Minnesota county)
- Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/documents/scpp/statewide_plan.htm)
- Minnesota's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/nrplanning/bigpicture/cwcs/tomorrows_habitat.pdf)
- Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources' 6-Year Strategic Plan (http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/documents/strategic_plan/lccmr_strategic_plan.pdf)
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Long Range Duck Recovery Plan (http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/recreation/hunting/waterfowl/duckplan_042106.pdf)
- Minnesota Statutes Chapter 84C, which recognizes the importance of private conservation efforts by authorizing conservation easements for the protection of natural, scenic, or open space values of real property, assuring its availability for agriculture, forest, recreational, or open space use, protecting natural resources, and maintaining or enhancing air or water quality. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=84C>)

3. For any conservation easement acquired, a restoration and management must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

Components of each habitat management plan will include:

- The landowner's land management goals and objectives (by priority)
- A complete inventory of the resources on site
- Site-specific habitat management and/or restoration recommendations
- A schedule for conducting management practices
- Tools and guidance for evaluation of management efforts and their impacts on the resources and habitats present

All habitat management plans will be developed by a qualified resource management professional and provide guidance in utilizing habitat management practices that enhance the conservation values of a protected property. Implementation of these plans will be the responsibility of the landowner, though all management activities will be monitored by MLT at least annually to ensure activities comply with the plan and the conservation easement. Costs for management activities will be the responsibility of the landowner, though government cost-sharing programs exist that may provide match funding for specific activities.

The terms and restrictions of each conservation easement require that the habitat management plan must be submitted for approval by MLT prior to the landowner beginning any management activities. A copy of each plan and its approval will be maintained on file at MLT and we will work with landowners to update their plans periodically. MLT will assist with future updates to landowners' plans as funding is available.

- 4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**

All conservation easement interests secured under this grant program will be held by MLT permanently.

- 5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction. A copy of the written approval should be provided to LCCMR.**

Minnesota Land Trust's Director of Land Protection will prepare and submit a complete overview of each conservation easement project and submit it for DNR Commissioner approval at least ten (10) business days prior to any final acquisition transaction. This component of our project approval process is also outlined in response to question #1, above.

- 6. Provide a statement addressing how conservation easements will address specific water quality protection activities, such as keeping water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, protecting groundwater, and not permitting artificial hydrological modifications.**

Minnesota Land Trust's standard conservation easement template includes a number of restrictions that are intended to prevent negative impacts to water quality. Standard restrictions include limiting agricultural uses such as row crops, prohibiting mining, preventing surface alteration and alteration of water bodies unless these activities are a component of an approved habitat management or restoration plan, and requirements for maintaining vegetated buffers to prevent surface runoff. Additionally, in easements that do allow limited amounts of agriculture, MLT includes a standard clause that requires those areas be restored to a natural condition when agricultural uses cease and that those restored areas cannot be returned to agriculture at any time in the future, thus limiting impacts to groundwater, surface water and potential erosion.

- 7. Describe the long-term monitoring and enforcement program for conservation easements acquired on parcels by your organization, including explanations of the process used for calculating conservation easement monitoring and enforcements costs, the process used for annual inspection and reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities, and the process used to ensure perpetual funding and implementation of monitoring and enforcement activities.**


See attached document, MLT Conservation Easement Stewardship Program.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S): See Map Attachment.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than February 1, 2016, August 1, 2016, February 1, 2017, August 1, 2017, and February 1, 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: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Coordination and Mapping and Conservation Easements												
Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e												
Project Manager: Kris Larson												
Organization: Minnesota Land Trust												
M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 515,000												
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2018												
Date of Report:												
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET											TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	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	
	<i>Partnership Coordinating, Mapping and Outreach</i>			<i>Partnership Mapping and Database Development</i>			<i>Permanent Protection of Ecological Landscapes</i>					
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000				\$85,000	\$0	\$85,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
[Overall, Mapping and Coordination: \$15,000] MLT conservation and support staff expenses including salaries and benefits to manage and coordinate the program for three years. [Ecological Landscapes: \$90,000] Staff expenses including salaries and benefits for approximately .33 FTE per year for 3 years (1 FTE total) as follows: conservation directors or other land protection staff (approximately 0.4 FTE), 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.												
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts				\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$67,000	\$0	\$67,000	\$82,000	\$82,000	
[Overall, Mapping and Coordination: \$15,000] MLT anticipated contract expenses include contracting database development and mapping of the corridors with an entity such as the MN DNR, Minnesota Information Technology (MN.IT) or a different third-party entity capable of working with the existing datasets and online mapping systems. [Ecological Landscapes: \$67,000] MLT anticipated contract expenses include title reports and closing costs, mapping, mineral assessments where appropriate, appraisals, habitat management plans, and land surveys. When efficiencies can be gained from contracting legal and/or project management contract support, MLT anticipates pursuing those options as well.												
Easement Acquisition							\$330,000	\$0	\$330,000	\$330,000	\$330,000	
An estimated 120 acres of permanent easements will be held by the Minnesota Land Trust. As a part of each acquisition, the Land Trust will seek a donation from landowners in order to cover project costs related to long-term easement stewardship and monitoring. Stewardship and monitoring costs will be itemized and substantiated using MLT's Project Cost Analysis worksheet.												
Travel expenses in Minnesota							\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota. Up to \$2700 for mileage reimbursement estimated at \$0.55 per mile and \$300 for meals. Allowable travel expenses are in keeping with the DNR Conservation Plan.												
COLUMN TOTAL	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000	\$485,000	\$0	\$485,000	\$515,000	\$515,000	

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2015 Parcel List

Project Title: Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII – Coordination and Mapping and Conservation Easements

Legal Citation: M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 09e

Project Manager: Kris Larson

Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

M.L. 2015 ENRTF Appropriation: \$515,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 years, June 30, 2018

Date of Report:

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Deer Lake	93°11'57" W	45°20'11" N	Assessed value = \$104,700	N/A	Anoka	Minnesota County Biological Survey native plant communities of oak-maple woodland, northern marsh, hardwood swamp and shrub fen. Contains shoreline along Deer Lake and is adjacent to an existing conservation easement.	conservation easement acquisition	41	0.1	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
2	Moose Lake	94°13'59" W	45°13'10" N	Assessed value = \$489,500	N/A	Wright	Contains forest, wetland, grassland and significant shoreline on Moose Lake. Connects two pieces of Stanely Eddy Memorial County Park.	conservation easement acquisition	42	0.2	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
3	Hay Creek	92°32'40" W	44°29'56" N	Assessed value = \$192,800	N/A	Goodhue	Minnesota County Biological Survey native plant communities of white-red oak forest and dry bedrock bluff prairie. Contains shoreline along a designated trout stream.	conservation easement acquisition	90	0.2	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
4	Wild River State Park	92°43'6" W	45°29'24" N	Assessed value = \$446,400	N/A	Chisago	Located in close proximity to Wild River State Park, almost entirely forested. Contains native plant communities of red oak- basswood forest. Also adjacent to an existing conservation easement.	conservation easement acquisition	160	N/A	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
5	Scandia	92°47'28" W	45°16'37" N	Assessed value = \$415,600	N/A	Washington	Contains forest, grassland, wetland, and an open water pond. Part of a larger corridor of undeveloped forest and grassland stretching to the St. Croix River which includes three existing conservation easements and Falls Creek SNA.	conservation easement acquisition	40	TBD	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
6	Scandia	92°47'9" W	45°16'37" N	Assessed Value = \$406,700	N/A	Washington	Contains forest, woodland and grassland. Part of a larger corridor of undeveloped forest and grassland stretching to the St. Croix River which includes three existing conservation easements and Falls Creek SNA.	conservation easement acquisition	40	N/A	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
7	Rum River	93°18'16" W	45°27'05" N	Assessed value = \$128,000	N/A	Anoka	Contains forested acres, woodland and grasslands. Adjacent to land previously protected with a conservation easement.	conservation easement acquisition	32	N/A	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
8	Bullard Creek	92°26'56" W	44°31'45" N	Assessed value = \$658,300	N/A	Goodhue	Deciduous forest and scenic bluffs along Flower Valley Trail.	conservation easement acquisition	94	N/A	private individual	Minnesota Land Trust	
9													
10													
NOTES:													