



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 07/27/2018

Date of Next Status Update Report: January 15, 2020

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Oak Wilt Suppression at the Northern Edge

Project Manager: Shannon Wettstein, District Manager

Organization: Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District

College/Department/Division:

Mailing Address: 16776 Heron Road

City/State/Zip Code: Little Falls, MN 56345

Telephone Number: 320-631-3553

Email Address: helen.mclennan@morrisonswcd.org

Web Address: <http://morrisonswcd.org/about-us>

Location: Primarily Morrison County, but also all of Cass, Crow Wing, and Todd counties, and northern Mille Lacs County.

Total Project Budget: \$100,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$100,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b

Appropriation Language: \$100,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District to eradicate the northern-most occurrences of oak wilt in the state through mechanical means on select private properties to prevent oak wilt's spread to healthy state forest habitats.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

The overall goal for this project is to suppress oak wilt on all known sites in Morrison County. sites in neighboring counties if identified. Eradicating the oak wilt sites will protect the surrounding forest, arrest oak wilt spread to the north and west, and ease the financial burden of oak wilt to landowners in Morrison County and communities to the north.

Oak wilt is a burgeoning invasive problem near Little Falls and threatens movement into the Brainerd area. It has the potential to kill significant percentages of trees in the nearly pure red oaks forests of the area. Oak wilt spots in Morrison County are at the edge of the known disease range in central Minnesota. Control of invasive species is optimal at their leading edge. If oak wilt is not controlled soon in this area, it will quickly grow to an unmanageable situation.

Morrison SWCD staff will contact landowners to explain the importance of oak wilt control and seek permission for control. SWCD will use grant funds to contract out 100 percent of the control work, including vibratory plowing and diseased tree removal and destruction. DNR forest health (FH) staff will help the SWCD through their on-going forest health detection surveys and through technical training and advising. If oak wilt is found in the Brainerd area, this grant could be applied there, as well as at other future oak wilt outlier locations in Todd, Cass, Crow Wing, or northern Mille Lacs counties.

While the project is focused on private lands, the public good comes from controlling the spread to public forests of the state, and the continued habitat for turkey, grouse, deer and other wildlife.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update January 15, 2020

Second Update June 15, 2020

Third Update January 15, 2021

Fourth Update August 15, 2021

Fifth Update January 15, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

Activity 1: *Securing Permission to Control Oak Wilt*

Description: SWCD staff will establish face to face meetings with affected landowners to secure permission to control oak wilt on their land. Currently there are ten known affected parcels.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$32,000

Activity 2: *Establish contracts with vibratory plow companies to control oak wilt*

Description: SWCD staff will secure contracts with companies for oak wilt control, including vibratory plowing and diseased tree removal and destruction. An optional additional control tactic would be for threatened tree removal (i.e. removal of healthy oaks inside plow lines that likely will die of oak wilt in the future).

ENRTF BUDGET: \$51,500

Activity 3: Repeat activities 1 and 2 for additional oak wilt spots that the DNR or landowners confirm in 2020 and 2021.

Description: DNR will communicate with Morrison SWCD staff, as well as appropriate SWCDs in Todd, Cass, Crow Wing, and Mille Lacs counties, about additional outlier oak wilt spots confirmed in 2019. SWCD staff will secure permission from affected landowners and secure contracts with oak wilt control companies in 2019, 2020, and 2021. Landowners in outlier zones may also confirm oak wilt on their own through lab tests with the University of Minnesota Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$16,500

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Ten landowners will grant SWCD staff permission to control oak wilt on their properties.</i>	<i>9/1/2019</i>
<i>2. Oak wilt pockets will be eradicated through vibratory plowing and diseased tree removal and destruction</i>	<i>4/1/2020</i>
<i>3. Oak wilt will be controlled for locations identified in 2019</i>	<i>4/1/2021</i>
<i>4. Oak wilt will be controlled for locations identified in 2020</i>	<i>4/1/2022</i>

First Update January 15, 2020

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Fourth Update August 15, 2021

Fifth Update January 15, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Landowners known to be affected by oak wilt will be contacted directly by mail and a follow-up house visit by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) technical staff. DNR Forestry staff may also aid in landowner contacts. These communications will detail their eligibility for fully funded oak wilt control, and they will aim to convince landowners to allow disease control.

SWCD staff, in partnership with DNR Forestry staff, will also host two public meetings, publicized in local newspapers, to alert unaware landowners of the need to control oak wilt and the availability of this grant.

DNR Forest Health Unit will write two articles in their newsletter to alert landowners of grant eligibility as well as add a notice at their oak wilt website.

The progress and summary of the work resulting from this grant will be described and the DNR Forest Health Unit's annual reports. Also, the DNR Forest Health Unit will survey project sites to ensure success and summarize those visits with reports to participating landowners. The Morrison SWCD will also post grant eligibility and progress on their website at www.morrisonswcd.org

[The Minnesota](#) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the [ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

First Update January 15, 2020

Second Update June 15, 2020

Third Update January 15, 2021

Fourth Update August 15, 2021

Fifth Update January 15, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

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

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 240	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr. = TOTAL FTE: 0.1
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 145	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr. = TOTAL FTE: 0.1
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Brian Schwingle	Forest Health Specialist	DNR Forestry, Central Region	Early detection of oak wilt through on-going forest health surveys; public notification on oak wilt locations; advise and train SWCD staff on all aspects of oak wilt control; communicate to all SWCDs which landowners are affected
John Korzeniowski	DNR Area Forester	DNR Forestry, Little Falls and Backus Areas	Assistance, as needed, to area SWCD staff with landowner contacts and public meetings. Assistance, as needed, to DNR Forest Health Unit staff.

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

The DNR Forest Health team receives a forest health monitoring grant to generally survey the health of the state’s forest canopy every year. They will monitor the success of oak wilt eradication efforts in Morrison

County, and they will continue to track the leading edge of oak wilt in the state. If oak wilt arises after control efforts have been completed in Morrison County, the DNR may seek another control grant.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted January 15 and June 15 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2022

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

A. Budget Spreadsheet

B. Visual Component or Map

C. Parcel List Spreadsheet: N/A

D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements: N/A

E. Research Addendum: N/A

Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet
Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b
Project Manager: Helen McLennan
Project Title: Oak Wilt Suppression at the Northern Edge
Organization: Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
Project Budget: \$100,000
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years and 9 months, April 1, 2022
Today's Date: July 27, 2018



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ 27,200	\$ -	\$ 27,200
SWCD technician 240/hrs \$45/hr = \$21,600 (landowner outreach and assistance, 160 hrs adm. @			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
Vibratory plow, tree felling, and tree removal contractor (competetive bids will be solicited)	\$ 67,428	\$ -	\$ 67,428
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
Travel to affected landowners' properties	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
		\$ -	\$ -
Other			
oak wilt diagnostic lab fees	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
public meeting outreach mailings, postage, newspaper articles, legal notices	\$ 4,372	\$ -	\$ 4,372
		\$ -	\$ -
		\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind: DNR Forest Health Specialist Oak Wilt Detection Survey (salary/benefits) 2019 - 2020	secured	\$ 1,567	\$ -	\$ 1,567
DNR Forest Health traveling costs for ground surveys and outreach (2019 - 2020)	secured	\$ 256	\$ -	\$ 256
DNR Resource Assessment Surveyor Oak Wilt Detection Survey (salary/benefits) 2019 - 2020	secured	\$ 640	\$ -	\$ 640
DNR aerial survey airplane cost (2019 - 2020)	secured	\$ 2,896	\$ -	\$ 2,896
DNR Forest Health Specialist outreach assistance (2019 - 2020)	secured	\$ 783	\$ -	\$ 783
Other DNR Forester assistance	secured	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Past appropriations:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -