



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2020 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2020-006

Staff Lead: Rory Anderson

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: August 27, 2021

Project Title: Chippewa County Acquisition, Recreation And Education

Project Budget: \$160,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Scott Williams

Organization: Chippewa County

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: August 26, 2021

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: July 31, 2023

Final Report Due Date: September 14, 2023

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09t

Appropriation Language: \$160,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Chippewa County to acquire wetland and floodplain forest and abandoned gravel pits along the Minnesota River to provide water filtration, education, and recreational opportunities.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Chippewa County will acquire 51 acres of riverine wetland/floodplain forest complex, floodplain and abandoned gravel pits along the MN River southwest of Montevideo.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The 51 acres to be acquired, plus the adjacent 45 acres of tax forfeited land, provide benefits to numerous native species of fish and wildlife, including nesting, spawning, and feeding, resting, and winter cover. Public ownership of these two parcels would allow for active management of the habitats through partnerships with the MN DNR and the US FWS. Habitat segmentation due to historical diking and abandoned roadways could be mitigated. Future management activities that restore more natural connectivity between wetlands and the Minnesota River will be accomplished

Both parcels provide water quality benefits to the Minnesota River by filtering water that flows through them. As cumulative impacts of upstream drainage continue to impact water quality in the Minnesota River, any amount of riverine wetlands that can be restored or protected will have cumulative

Lastly, educational opportunities on or adjacent to the MN River are not plentiful. This project will allow greater access to the MN River system by providing public space to meet, enjoy and learn.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

This property also provides an important function of water filtration of upland runoff before it flows into the river. Preservation of these filter lands are crucial to improving water quality on the MN River. A management plan will be developed considering the natural benefits of the area and to identify additional practices that could be implemented in the future.

Both of the properties to be acquired became available from willing sellers in an effort to continue the conservation practices currently on their land. Due to the proximity of these properties in relation to the tax forfeited properties adjacent to them, these pieces become part of a much bigger puzzle in the MN River valley.

Chippewa County will hire an expert or firm to study the property acquired and develop a long term management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting grounds and general ecological concerns. Based on the plan recommendations, projects will be implemented to address the goal.

Chippewa County will, construct a handicapped accessible dock/fishing pier in the pit.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Acquire 51 acres of riverine wetland/forested wetland.

Develop a management plan to restore the area.

Construct a fishing pier and parking area for the public to access the site.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): SW

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): SW

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Land Acquisition

Activity Budget: \$85,000

Activity Description:

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Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Acquisition complet	July 31, 2023

Activity 2: Management Plan and Implementation

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

Chippewa County will hire an expert or firm to study the property acquired and develop a long term management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting grounds and general ecological concerns. Based on the plan recommendations, projects will be implemented to address the goal.

Contracts for Plan development as well as implementation will be carried out following a competitive bid process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Develop plan to manage terrestrial and aquatic habitats to benefit heritage features of the area	June 30, 2023

Activity 3: Recreation

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

Chippewa County will, through a competitive bid process, award a contract to construct and install a 40' long fishing pier with a 30' long cross dock at the end. This pier will be handicapped accessible and will be installed by the County Highway Department.

Chippewa County will construct a parking area in the most upland portion of the acquired property. The parking area will have access from the adjacent township gravel road and provide space for approximately 10 vehicles. Chippewa County will utilize existing funds in the County Park Reserve fund to pay for the parking lot along with in kind design work from the Chippewa County Highway Department.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Complete Parking	May 31, 2023
Fishing Pier	June 30, 2023
Parking Area	June 30, 2023

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Chippewa County will provide updates on all project work through the county websites and local media. ENTRF logos will be used at all times.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

Chippewa County includes an allocation in its annual budget to support the county parks. Long term funding for this area and future development will come from budget allocations of the county and private donations made to the parks.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
To be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Develop a plan to manage terrestrial and aquatic habitat to benefit natural heritage features of the area.				0.25		\$10,000
To be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Chippewa County will hire a firm to implement projects identified in the management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting ground				1		\$50,000
County Attorney	Acquisition costs	Appraisals and Closings. Likely will be one appraisal and one deed preparation and closing of approximately \$5,000 each.				0.1		\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$70,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Fishing Pier	Provide access to the water resources of the property					\$15,000
							Sub Total	\$15,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 41 Parcels: 1						\$75,000

							Sub Total	\$75,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$160,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	County General Fund	Fishing Pier Match	Secured	\$5,000
Cash	County General Fund	Parking area construction	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	County General Fund	County Land & Resource Management Director time and overhead	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	County General Fund	Parking area construction by county highway department	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$35,000
			Funds Total	\$35,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Gibson	Chippewa	Riverine wetland, forested wetland	Fee Title	40	-	\$75,000	Private	Chippewa County	Negotiations in Progress
Totals				40	0	\$75,000			

Fee Acquisition

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

The landowners of these two parcels contacted the county inquiring as to our interest in purchasing these properties. Following conversations with the DNR, it became apparent that this property could have significant impact on the area and that county ownership and protection would be a positive goal.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

Chippewa County Local Water Plan identifies the need and the goals but does not identify the specific parcels.

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan 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.

i. US Highway 212 crossed through these parcels at one time. Because road was abandoned and not removed, the old road bed remains on the easterly boundary of the properties. Removal of the road bed will allow the natural flow of water to be restored providing positive impacts on water quality and retention. A management plan will be developed by hiring a qualified contractor to study the area and come up with conclusions that can be implemented to accomplish this goal. A competitive bid process will be utilized to hire a qualified individual/firm.

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.

County Approval will be obtained prior to expenditure of any funds.

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.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [d70aec66-a91.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of the area included in the LCCMR application identifying the parcels to be acquired and the fishing pier and parking area....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Authorization	5e121a1a-1b8.docx

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Background Certification	95981772-ce9.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

One property has been sold and is no longer available to the County. It is the 11 acre parcel and will not substantially change the outcome of the project.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

Yes

Do you agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

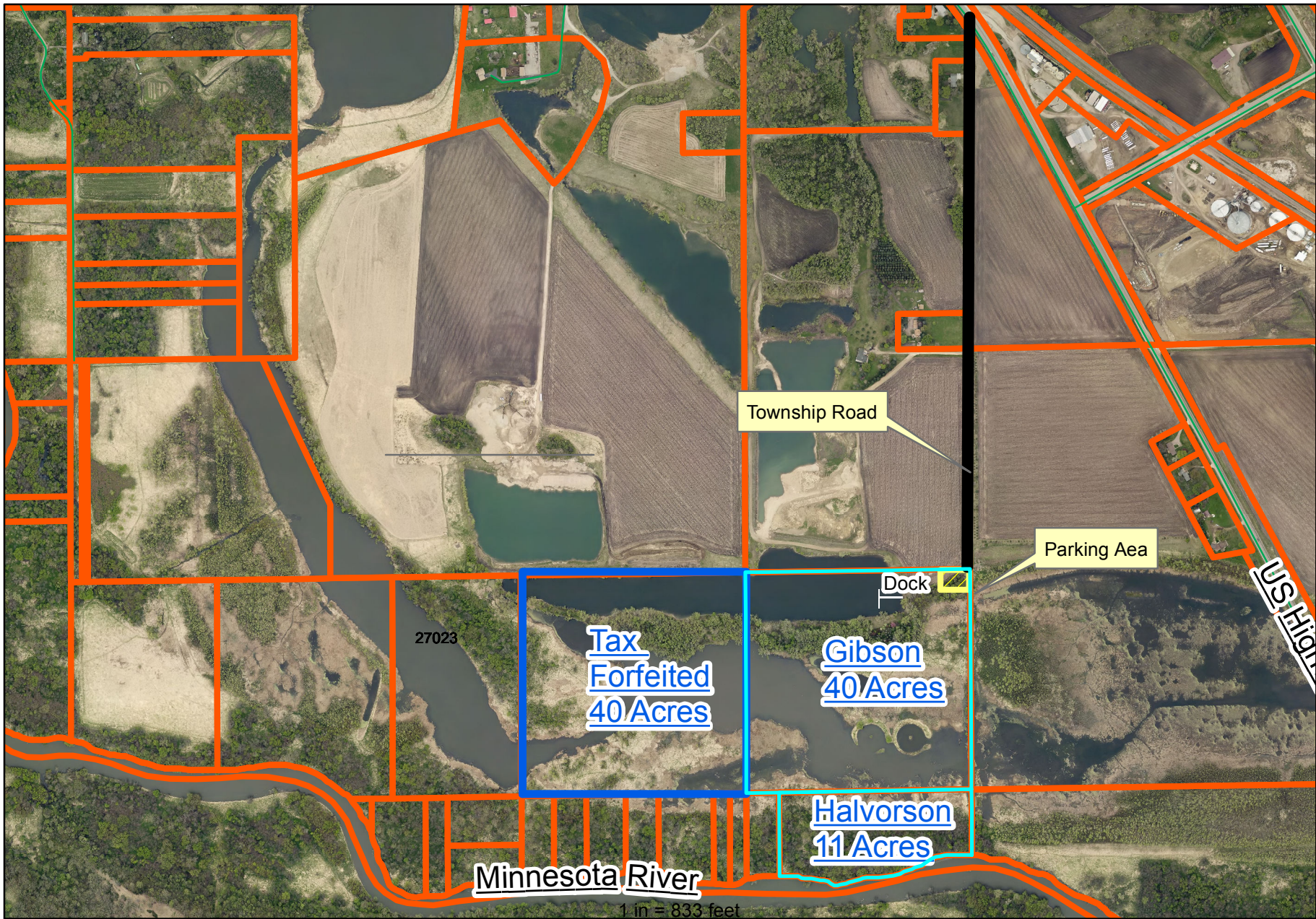
Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Chippewa Acquisition, Recreation and Education



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