



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2021-138

Staff Lead: Corrie Layfield

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: July 21, 2021

Project Title: Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management

Project Budget: \$3,092,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Barbara Lusardi

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: July 20, 2021

Reporting Schedule: December 1 / June 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2024

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 03g

Appropriation Language: \$3,092,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, Minnesota Geological Survey, to continue producing county geologic atlases to inform management of surface water and groundwater resources. This appropriation is to complete Part A, which focuses on the properties and distribution of earth materials to define aquifer boundaries and the connection of aquifers to the land surface and surface water resources.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: Geologic atlases provide maps/databases essential for improved management of ground and surface water. This proposal will complete current projects and start new projects to equal about 8 complete atlases.

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

Geologic atlases provide maps and databases essential for improved management of ground and surface water. This is foundational data that supports management of drinking water, domestic and industrial supply, irrigation, and aquatic habitat. County Geologic Atlases are specifically identified as essential data in the Statewide Conservation Plan, and in the efforts of the Environmental Quality Board, DNR Eco-Waters, and the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota to design a sustainable water management process. The distribution of geologic materials defines aquifer boundaries and the connection of aquifers to the land surface and to surface water resources to enable a comprehensive water management effort. This proposal will complete current projects and start new projects to equal about 8 complete atlases.

Atlases are complete or underway for 66 of the 87 counties in Minnesota with recent starts in Faribault, Waseca, Grant, Douglas, and Lake of the Woods counties. This project continues an effort to complete county geologic atlas coverage statewide. The current spending rate of about \$2 million per year (all sources) would allow about 5 new starts each year—a plan in which we start the 87th county in 2025 and completing the entire state in this format in 2029.

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.

A complete geologic atlas consists of Part A constructed by the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) and focused on geology and the County Well Index, and Part B constructed by the DNR Eco-Waters Division (funded separately) and focused on groundwater. Atlases enhance natural resource management and regulation, and facilitate wise use of water resources. They support: permitting, land use planning, wellhead protection, remediation, nutrient management, monitoring, modeling, and well construction. Atlas information is used by citizens, local government, counties, and state agencies (SWCDs, MDH, DNR, MPCA, Ag).

Atlases begin with compilation of a database of subsurface information including well records. The county establishes accurate digital locations for these wells. Concurrently, geologists visit the project area to describe and sample landforms, and exposures of rock or sediment.

An initial assessment of the geologic data is then completed to focus additional data gathering including shallow and deep drilling programs and geophysical, geochemical, and geochronologic surveys. Analysis of the data set is then completed and maps and associated databases are formalized and prepared for use in geographic information systems and distribution via DVD and web. Most of the products are also printed for use in the field, and by users who prefer this format.

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?

This proposal will complete current projects and start new projects to equal about 8 complete atlases. Specific outcomes are as follows:

1. Create database of well construction records to support the mapping, to document water use in specific aquifers, and to help resolve well problems
2. Complete any unfinished ENRTF supported County Geologic Atlas projects in progress (ex; from 2019/2020 appropriations)
3. Make progress on maps of bedrock geology, surficial geology, subsurface Quaternary geology, bedrock topography, and thickness of glacial deposits

Atlases support: permitting, land use planning, wellhead protection, remediation, nutrient management, monitoring, modeling, and well construction.

Project Location

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

Statewide

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

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Initiate about 4 new county geologic atlases; continue existing projects—equivalent of about 8 atlases total

Activity Budget: \$3,092,000

Activity Description:

Atlases begin with compilation of a database of subsurface information including well records. The local project partner establishes accurate digital locations for these wells. Concurrently, geologists visit the project area to describe and sample landforms, and exposures of rock or sediment.

An initial assessment of the geologic data is then completed to focus additional data gathering including shallow and deep drilling programs and geophysical, geochemical, and geochronologic surveys. Analysis of the data set is then completed and maps and associated databases are formalized and prepared for use in geographic information systems and distribution via DVD and web. Most of the products are also printed for use in the field, and by users who prefer this format. The number of counties we can map with these funds will be affected by the size, geologic complexity, and data availability of the counties that are chosen.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Make progress on bedrock geology, surficial geology, subsurface geology, bedrock topography, and drift thickness maps	June 30, 2024
Complete any unfinished ENRTF supported County Geologic Atlas projects in progress	June 30, 2024
Create database of well construction records to support the mapping	June 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
MN Counties	MN Counties	The counties are required to provide funds or in-kind service to help us build our database. Counties establish accurate well locations and identify specific project needs.	No
Paul Putzier	MN Dept. of Natural Resources- Ecological and Water Resources	A complete geologic atlas consists of Part A constructed by the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) and focused on geology and the County Well Index, and Part B constructed by the DNR Eco-Waters Division (funded separately) and focused on groundwater--water levels, water chemistry, and sensitivity.	Yes

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.

Every atlas is produced in portable document format (PDF), as geographic information system files (GIS), and in printed form. The digital files are available as a DVD, and are also available from the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy, and via link from the MGS web page <https://cse.umn.edu/mgs/county-geologic-atlas>. Funding support by Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications. Each project culminates with a meeting held in the project area to present the results to the county staff, and any other interested parties. At these meetings the products are described, access to the products is explained, and examples of applications of the products to common resource management situations are demonstrated. The printed copies are shared with the county, who in turn can distribute them to libraries, schools, townships, and other agencies. They are also distributed by the MGS map sales office. Products are also made available to earth science teachers and other educators for classroom exercises. Atlas products are also displayed and explained at educational events for agencies and organizations such as SWCD staff, sewage treatment system contractors, well drillers, and even hazmat responders. In addition, the MGS hosts an Open Data Portal on which many of our county geologic atlases are presented as “Story Maps” that allow for direct access of the data without any special software or interface. Representatives from MGS and DNR participated in various field trips, meetings, and strategic planning sessions highlighting aspects of the CGA program and discussing geology and groundwater issues.

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?

Most atlases require 3 to 4 years to complete, so some projects started in this proposal may not be finished and will require additional funding. The funding level of this proposal is sized to continue the overall funding of geologic atlases (Part A) that are currently underway while initiating about 4 new atlases for an equivalent of about 8 atlases total. At this pace, we estimate that we will complete statewide coverage by about 2029. Funds from this proposal may be applied, but are not limited to, the following counties: Lyon, Murray, Swift, Stevens, Beltrami, Koochiching, Marshall, and Roseau.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
County Geologic Atlases - Part A	M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 03a	\$2,040,000
County Geologic Atlases - Continuation	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 03a	\$2,000,000
County Geologic Atlases - Part A	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 03a	-
County Geologic Atlases - Part A, Mapping Geology	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 03n	\$2,000,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
16 Geologists		Create geologic maps; collect and interpret data, draw map, write text, draft figures , present results			32%	18.9		\$1,624,000
3 GIS/computer/web development specialists		Create GIS products leading to final print and digital versions of maps, cross sections and sand distribution models; finalize and archive GIS data; develop web accessible content			32%	3.24		\$278,400
2 field assistants		Assist geologists with collection and processing of geologic information in the laboratory, field and office			32%	1.08		\$92,800
3 Database specialists		Database development and support: database development for existing and new projects; train and supervise internal and external staff in well location; data collection of downhole geophysical data			32%	2.7		\$232,000
1 editor		Edit maps, text, and figures for publication; coordinates printing			32%	1.08		\$92,800
							Sub Total	\$2,320,000
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Geochemical and geochronological analyses to support aquifer correlation and delineation; laboratories will be evaluated based on cost and capabilities in accordance with U of M purchasing rules. Includes \$500 for sample shipping.				0		\$75,000
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Laboratory analyses not relating to geochemistry project outlined elsewhere; includes but not limited to thin sections, pollen counts, radiocarbon dates; laboratories will be evaluated based on cost and capabilities in accordance with U of M purchasing rules. Contracts or bids as necessary.				0		\$12,000
TBD	Professional or Technical	Rotary sonic test hole drilling (competitive bid). Generally 3-6 holes per county. Rotary sonic				0		\$400,000

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	Service Contract	method yields 4" undisturbed core of unconsolidated deposits. Average hole cost is \$16,500 but varies with depth. Depth corresponds to depth of bedrock surface. Drilling costs are shared with support from DNR contract.						
							Sub Total	\$487,000
	Equipment, Tools, and Supplies							
	Tools and Supplies	Field and lab expendables (batteries, sample bags, distilled water); Giddings probe repairs and parts; maps, core boxes	These items are needed to collect, process, and store samples					\$64,000
							Sub Total	\$64,000
	Capital Expenditures							
							Sub Total	-
	Acquisitions and Stewardship							
							Sub Total	-
	Travel In Minnesota							
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Vehicle rental as needed (weekly and mileage); meals; lodging; amounts cannot be calculated until specific project locations are known	Geologists must travel to each county in order to collect samples, identify rocks and sediment, interpret landforms, drill and log core, and to train county staff. In order to be most efficient, geologists may spend several days to weeks in the field.					\$161,000
							Sub Total	\$161,000
	Travel Outside Minnesota							
							Sub Total	-
	Printing and Publication							

	Printing	Offset printing; awarded by price comparison; typically 500 copies of each of 6 plates (each 3' by 3' and four color) per county, current prices about \$14,000 per county. Print run has been lowered as there are more online users.	Map plates are best viewed on a printed page. Digital files are also made available (PDF, GIS, web browser)					\$60,000
							Sub Total	\$60,000
	Other Expenses							
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$3,092,000

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				
Cash	MN Department of Natural Resources Amendment #1 to Contract 127919/3000116814/Ad hoc: 1549 SWIFT contract #: 127919/3000116814 (\$500,000) Reduced for FY21 (Amendment #2) (now \$350,000)	The MGS will work on the following program elements and associated activities during the biennium: 1) Completion and printing of the Part A portion of current atlas projects. 2) Continuation of current and new CGAs. 3) Initiation of preliminary work on new county geologic atlases, if funds are available. 4) Scientific drilling to augment county geologic atlas projects. Funds are distributed as follows: Items 1-3: \$150,000 FY20 and \$100,000 FY21: Total \$250,000 Item 4: \$100,000 FY20 and \$0 FY21: Total \$100,000	Secured	\$350,000
Cash	Clean Water Funds (FY20 distribution): \$250,000 Clean Water Funds (FY21 distribution): \$250,000	Used to supplement other funding sources to complete County Geologic Atlases (Part A) for the entire state; funding to continue ongoing atlases and to start new atlas projects (including but not limited to database development, mapping, drilling, sample analyses, editing and production (print and digital files)	Secured	\$500,000
Cash	Clean Water Funds FY22 proposed (This funding source is likely to be restricted due to lower than anticipated tax revenue)	Continuation of CGA program	Potential	\$900,000
			State Sub Total	\$1,750,000
Non-State				
Cash	USGS Statemap program (secured) \$96,232 USGS Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition (secured) \$40,195 Funds listed are for CGA related work.	MGS competes for federal cost-sharing of geologic mapping through the STATEMAP Program, the Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition, and the USGS Data Preservation Program. Each requires a 1:1 match of federal dollars with non-federal dollars. MGS has used these programs to fund map elements of geologic atlases, or improvement of databases utilized in geologic atlas work. The figure provided is an estimate based on pending proposals.	Secured	\$136,427
In-Kind	Individual counties; value varies with the number of records and the size of the county; estimated to be \$10,000 to \$50,000	Individual counties are required to establish accurate locations for water wells with construction records. This helps MGS build a database of geologic information that is vital to our mapping process.	Secured	\$25,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$161,427
			Funds Total	\$1,911,427

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [b2ce9fdc-a9b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Status map showing the counties for which CGA is complete (43) or underway (23) and which counties have not yet been started (21).

Funding graph showing 11-year spending history from 2010-2020. Current-year spending is estimated through June. Spending amounts are indicated by sponsor (ENRTF, CWF, DNR, and Fed). In addition, the graph shows the funding required to complete CGA's for the rest of Minnesota counties in the next 9 years including estimated carry forward, pending, and proposed...

Optional Attachments

Support Letter or Other

Title	File
Background Check	c7fc4ad1-423.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

The scope of work has been reduced to fit the 25% recommended reduction in funding. Instead of completing the equivalent of 10 atlases (about 6 new starts and completion of work already in progress), we will only be able to complete the equivalent of about 8 atlases--including about 4 new starts and completion of work already in progress. The overall budget has been reduced by 25%, however the totals in each category have been adjusted to better reflect how the funds will be allocated (based on final spending report from the LCCMR-18 award).

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?

N/A

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?

Yes, I agree to the UMN Policy.

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

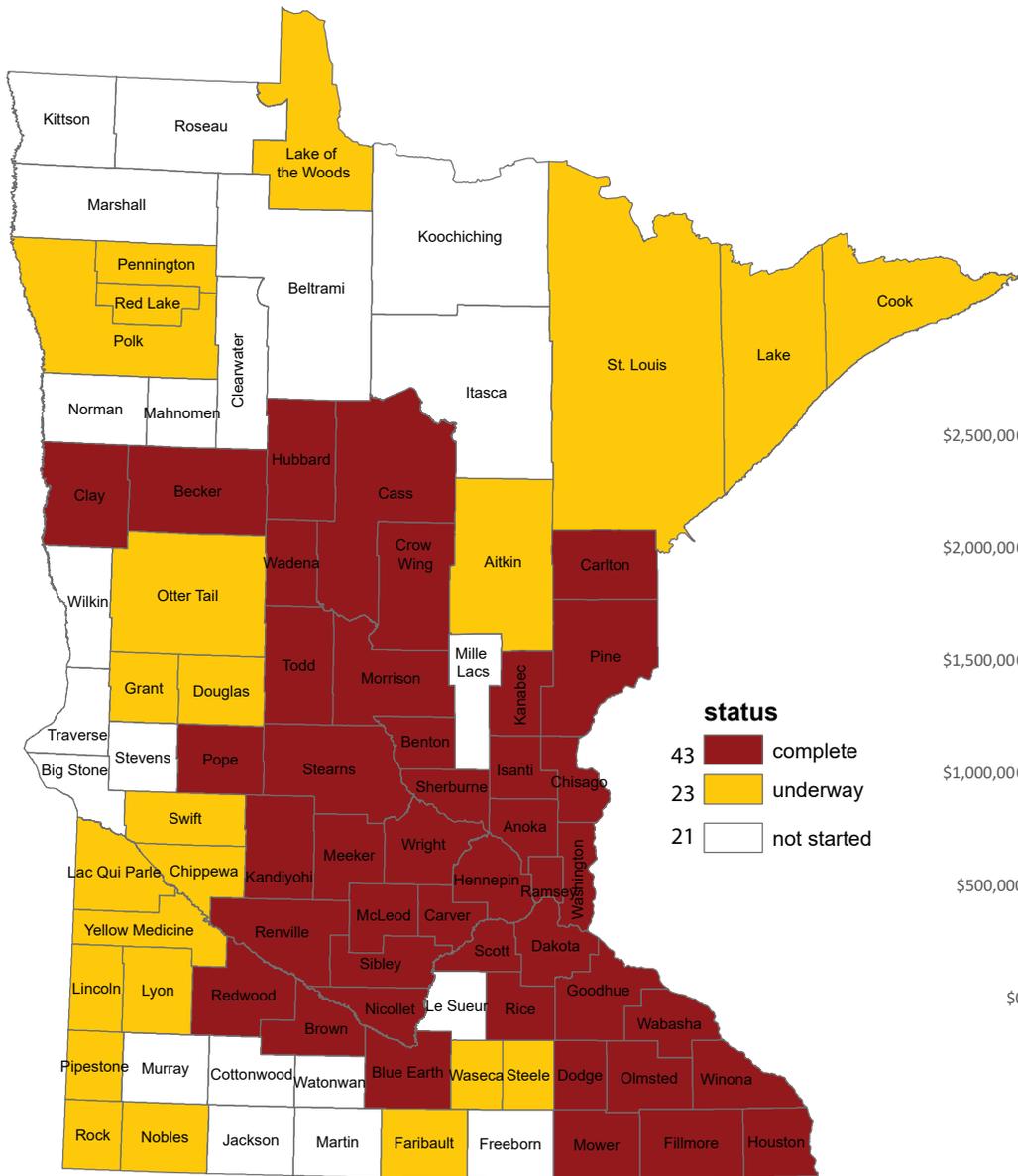
Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

Yes

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Sponsored Projects Administration

Status of County Geologic Atlas Part A

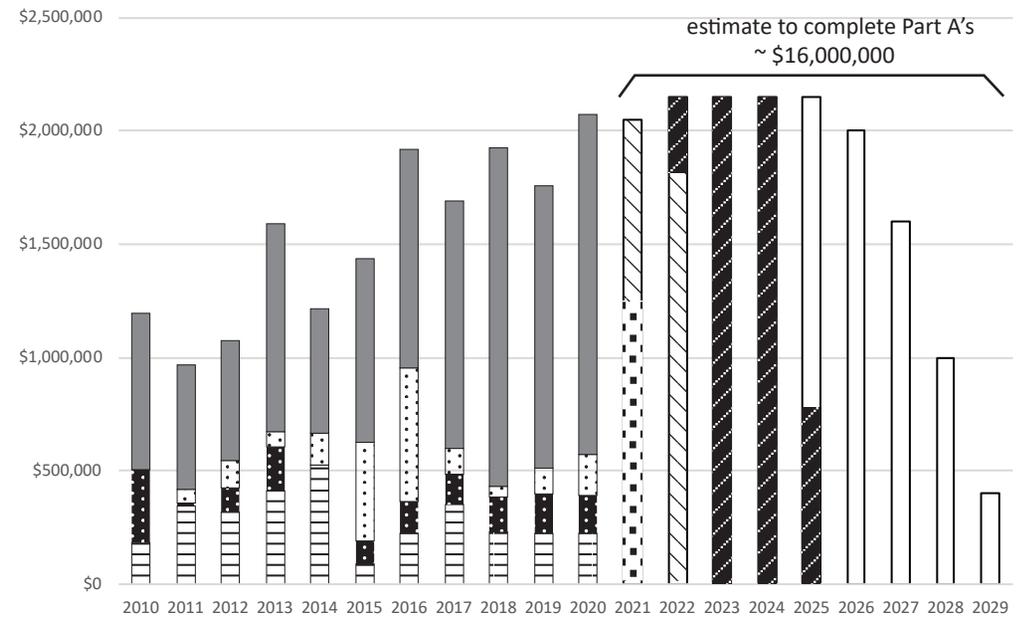


03/31/2020



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County Geologic Atlas Part A Funding History and Projection



Spending History (2010-2020*)

- ENRTF
- Clean Water Funds
- Federal Cost Share
- Dept. Natural Resources

*FY20 spending estimated

Funding projection (2021-2029^)

- Carry Forward
- Pending awards FY22
- Proposed FY23
- Additional funds

^Future funding is not shown in the time-frame during which it will likely be spent

