

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on August 8, 2023

M.L. 2021 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2024

Project Title: Veterans On The Lake

Project Manager: Eric Mayranen

Affiliation: Veterans on the Lake

Mailing Address: 161 Fernberg Road

City/State/Zip: Ely, MN 55731

Phone: (218) 365-6900

E-mail: ecmayranen@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.veteransonthelakeresort.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

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

Appropriation Amount: \$553,000

Amount Spent: \$553,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Activity 1. Construction Engineering - The Cabin engineering and blueprints were completed in the summer of 2021.

Activity 2. Paving project complete summer of 2022, Trails project completed the Spring of 2022.

Activity 3 Cabin renovation was completed the fall and winter of 2022 and spring on 2023.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The cabin engineering was done by RHA Architects, Inc., which volunteered most of their services and assisted Veterans on the Lake Resort during the bidding process. They continue to provide services to the resort for future projects. Using their design, we needed to make only minor changes to build two cabins that are wheelchair-friendly and low maintenance.

The fuel reduction/ trail portion of the project had two positive outcomes. After obtaining approval from the United States Forest Service, the owner of the property, we harvested dead balsam from more than 20 acres of resort property, greatly reducing the threat of wildfire to resort buildings. The trees were then chipped and used to build more than 1,200 feet of trails through the forest. These trails allow guests, even those with mobility issues, an opportunity to take a

walk in the woods on a chip-covered surface. This portion of the project was delayed two years by weather but was done in 2022. The project also included subgrade work and replacement of the existing blacktop, which was done in 1986. Cracks, potholes and frost heaves made it difficult for our wheelchair guests to travel. The surface is now smooth and much safer for our guests.

The cabin renovation/reconstruction project replaced two of the resort's older cabins that had no wheelchair access with cabins that have ramp access, 38% more floor space, and are more energy efficient. The extra space affords an open interior design, handicap shower stalls, and other features that make the new structures wheelchair friendly.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

All of the activities funded by this grant and currently benefit the public now and will into the future. Dissemination of the key role this grant played in these projects is ongoing with signage and verbal communication. Whenever there is an opportunity the grant is brought into the conversation. Thank you for all the help.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2021 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: November 8, 2024

ID Number: 2021-325

Staff Lead: Becca Nash

Project Title: Veterans On The Lake

Project Budget: \$553,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Eric Mayranen

Organization: Veterans on the Lake

Office Telephone: (218) 365-6900

Email: ecmayranen@yahoo.com

Web Address: <https://www.veteransonthelakeresort.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: August 8, 2023

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: August 8, 2023

Project Completion: July 31, 2023

Legal Information

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

Appropriation Language: \$553,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Lake County for Veterans on the Lake to conduct accessibility upgrades to Veterans on the Lake's existing trails, roadway, and buildings to improve access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for disabled American veterans.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2024

Narrative

Project Summary: 553,000 is respectfully requested for accessibility/handicap renovations to existing structures and roadway and trail construction for upgrading accessibility for our clients 81% of which are disabled American Veterans.

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

Veterans on the Lake is a resort and recreational facility for disabled American Veterans and their families, created on a lake partially within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in 1982 as a 501c3 non-profit organization. The resort is made up of more than 30 aging cabins, pathways, trails, common areas, pool, boat house, docks, lodge and supporting facilities. For 38 years, these facilities have been adequate to addressing our mission to provide quality access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for our guests and their families. Now, with a limited budget that covers our operating expenses and maintenance, it is time for targeted upgrades focusing on increasing accessibility and repairing our trails, pathways, docks, and roadway to allow barrier free access as the first priority. The second priority will be to increase the accessibility of our existing cabins and lodge and improve their energy efficiency in order to reduce long-term operating costs. Some cabins will be razed and replaced due to structural issues.

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

First, trails, pathways, docks, and the roadway will be upgraded to allow barrier free access, including below grade work, paving, and dock renovation. Second, upgrades for our cabins and lodge will include widening doorways, building new accessibility ramps, adding grab bars, walk-in showers and bathtubs, upgrading flooring, closets, automatic doors/handles, accessible kitchens as well as energy improvements including windows, roofing, insulation, and heat plant infrastructure. Finally, some cabins will be razed and replaced.

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 is an effort to increase public access for recreation, particularly in the area of providing high quality access for disabled American Veterans and their families to access Minnesota's BWCAW and nearby outdoor recreation opportunities and educational/cultural programs through area attractions near Ely such as the International Wolf Center, the North American Bear Center, the Dorothy Molter Museum, and the US Forest Service BWCAW information center.

Project Location

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

Region(s): NE

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

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Project Construction Engineering

Activity Budget: \$3,000

Activity Description:

Construction engineering includes construction administration, onsite observations, and architectural plans focused on the upgrades and accessibility projects related to trails, paths, ramps and cabin upgrades on this first phase of our project. Engineering work for the Cabin Reconstruction Project was completed the summer of 2021 by RHA Architect's Inc. These Architectural drawings were required to complete requirements for the USFS Land Use permit. Veterans on the Lake Resort was invoiced \$3,000 and paid that invoice in December 2021. The Balance of the work was done Pro bono (\$3,500) on a \$7,500 total. This activity is complete and came in under the original budget.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Engineering Start	July 31, 2021
Construction Engineering Complete	September 30, 2021

Activity 2: Trail Paving Project Construction

Activity Budget: \$120,910

Activity Description:

Our accessibility upgrade project at Veterans on the Lake includes paving and trail construction to meet ADA requirements. This includes trails, pathways, docks, and the roadway that will be upgraded to allow barrier free access, including below grade work, paving, and dock renovation. We will also be using funding from St. Louis County (\$100,000) and Dept. of Iron Range Resources (\$125,000) for this part of the project as we can begin this Fall or first thing in the Spring. This funding was awarded to us in 2019 and 2020 respectively. We are working through our fiscal agent, Lake County, to make sure we are following the LCCMR/IRRB/State of MN bidding process. We did discuss this via e-mail with Director Becca Nash in order to make sure we are following the correct bidding process. The paving portion of the project is still underway and we would request that the Activity 2 completion date be extended to October 31, 2022. Further, we would ask that the \$46,500 in remaining funds from Activity 1 be shifted to Activity 2 as the price of asphalt and construction has risen. Our accessibility upgrade project at Veterans on the Lake

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Construction Begins	October 31, 2020
Project Bid	October 31, 2020
Construction Complete	October 31, 2022

Activity 3: Cabin Renovation/Reconstruction

Activity Budget: \$429,090

Activity Description:

Cabin upgrades/renovations/replacements is a multi-phase project as we have 30 aging buildings at the facility. This phase of our project includes upgrades for two (2) of our cabins and will include widening doorways, building new accessibility ramps, adding grab bars, walk-in showers and bathtubs, upgrading flooring, closets, automatic

doors/handles, accessible kitchens as well as energy improvements including windows, roofing, insulation, and heat plant infrastructure. At this stage our plan is to renovate the two cabins, however, if it became cost prohibitive, we would raze the cabins and reconstruct them likely with modular cabins. Bids for the cabin upgrades/renovations/renovation were secured December of 2021. Our project includes upgrades for two (2) of our cabins and will include widening doorways, building new accessibility ramps, adding grab bars, walk-in showers and bathtubs, upgrading flooring, closets, automatic doors/handles, accessible kitchens as well as energy improvements including windows, roofing, insulation, and heating and cooling upgrades. We chose to raze the 2 cabins and reconstruct them. The Bid for construction of 2 cabins was (\$481,914).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Project Bidding	August 31, 2021
Construction Begins on 2 Cabin Renovation/Reconstruction	September 30, 2021
Construction Completed	May 31, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
U.S. Forest Service	Government	The lands used by Veterans on the Lake to serve disabled American Veterans is leased in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.	No
Lake County	Government	Lake County is supportive of the project, considering a grant and will act as our fiscal agent.	Yes
Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources	Government	The Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources is supportive of the Veterans on the Lake project and considering a grant toward the project.	Yes
St. Louis County	Government	St. Louis County is supportive of the Veterans on the Lake project and has contributed \$100,000 toward it.	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.

Veterans on the Lake has regular project meetings. Documentation of these meetings are developed in the form of meeting minutes that are available upon request.

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.

We have placed signs with recognition of ENRTF/LCCMR at the project site.

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 work be funded?

The results will be implemented by working with our fiscal agent, Lake County, to publicly bid and award the construction and repair work described above according to county purchasing rules and some matching funding has already been received and committed to the project. Ongoing operations of the resort will continue, as it has since 1982, by a combination of revenues from guests, donations, and support from local communities, local government, and veterans organizations.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
Engineering Firm Hired Through A Competitive Process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	The engineering firm will be responsible for project design and construction administration.				0		\$3,000	\$3,000	-
							Sub Total	\$3,000	\$3,000	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										

							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
		General Contractor for construction All Phase Construction, INC.	Activity 3 cabin reconstruction G.C. Hired using Competitive Bid Process					\$429,090	\$429,090	-
		Contractor Trails - Casey Peterson Landscaping & excavation	Activity 2 project. Hired using completeive bid process					\$23,500	\$23,500	-
		Paving contractor Mesabi Bituminous	Activity 2 project. Hired using Completeive bid process					\$97,410	\$97,410	-
							Sub Total	\$550,000	\$550,000	-
							Grand Total	\$553,000	\$553,000	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	Saint Louis County, Minnesota	The grant from Saint Louis County will be used for the trail and path accessibility project and serve toward matching funds for ENRTF funds.	Secured	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
Cash	Private Donations	Funds were used for repairs to docks listed under activity 2	Secured	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
In-Kind	Pre-engineering - JPJ Engineering	JPJ Engineering has provided in-kind support for early planning of project.	Secured	\$15,000	\$15,000	-
Cash	Veterans on the Lake	Veterans on the Lake will be contributing a minimum of \$10,000 to the project.	Secured	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
Cash	Department of Iron Range Resources	For use in construction.	Secured	\$125,000	\$125,000	-
			Non State Sub Total	\$323,000	\$323,000	-
			Funds Total	\$323,000	\$323,000	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [cd29c2e9-b6e.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Site map of Veterans on the Lake....

Financial Capacity

File: [417af615-df6.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Veteran on the Lake Resolution	b201dccb-039.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
LCCMR Background Check Document	f899554e-6b3.pdf
Veterans On the Lake BOD 2022	b03a4d42-74e.pdf
Photos from 3-9- 2023 update	ff27590e-b8b.docx
Old Cabin 18 before demo	02707840-d4b.jpe
Old cabin 20 before Demo	8706ef54-4e5.jpe
Old cabin 20 during Demo	c45f4004-51b.jpe
New cabin 18	2ff10a4b-1e9.jpe
New cabin 20	3e8693f5-f6f.jpe

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Responding to changes. Thank you!

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?

N/A

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

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?

Yes, Lake County

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other 	Our budget changed when engineering costs came in low and we could shift more funds to construction. Also, supply chain and COVID issues have caused delays which made it so we needed to change our timeline.	June 13, 2022	Yes	July 1, 2022
2	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Activities and Milestones • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts • Budget - Other • Budget - Non-ENRTF Funds Contributed • Attachments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The phone number was corrected for the Project Manger - Put back original activities wording - Engineering cost less than estimated. request transfer of unspent funds \$500 to activity 3. - Budget updated to reflect actual spent and unspent - Added Veterans on the Lake non- ENRTF contribution estimate to complete project - Added \$20,000 of private donations to Non-ENRTF. These funds completed the Dock improvement project activity 2. - project photos added 	March 24, 2023	Yes	April 3, 2023

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update September 14, 2023

Date Submitted: July 14, 2023

Date Approved: July 24, 2023

Overall Update

All Activities have been completed and the \$553,000 has been spent. Dissemination of the key role the ENRTF played in the success of these projects will continue into the future,

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Acknowledgment of ENRTF contribution to the completion of these projects will continue into the future. This contribution will be communicated both verbally and with signage.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2023

Date Submitted: June 11, 2023

Date Approved: July 24, 2023

Overall Update

Activity 1 the engineering work has been completed in August of 2021. Activity 2 the Trails/ Fuel reduction was completed May of 2022. The improvements to the docks within Activity 2 was completed in 2022 using Donations other than LCCMR. The Paving project within Activity 2 was completed in the early summer of 2022. Activity 3 the cabin reconstruction started in December on 2021 with the purchase of materials and construction starting in September of 2022 and was completed May of 2023 with the Handicap upgrades. Dissemination is ongoing and will continue past the closing of the project.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

Update from Last report December 1,2022. Most of the major construction was done before December 1,2022. during January and February Plumbers and Electricians worked on a limited basis. During March and April the carpeting and linoleum were put down. The plumbers returned and finished the bathroom. Stove and refrigerator were delivered. Heating and cooling units were installed during this time frame. In April, when the frost was gone, our Propane supplier finished the installation of Propene to both cabins. We Had some supply chain issues with the shades for the windows, they arrived and were installed in May. Furniture and beds were delivered in April after the flooring was done. On May 7, 2023 the renovation of the 2 cabins was complete. The week of May 8th the final inspection was done by the State of Minnesota plumbing inspector. On May 12, 2023 the first guests occupied the cabins.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Signs have been placed in the new cabins showing all the Donors and contractors who contributed to the Project.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update December 1, 2022

Date Submitted: March 23, 2023

Date Approved: April 3, 2023

Overall Update

Our project is moving along at a fast clip. Activity 1, Engineering is complete. \$500 remains unused in that category and we would like to move that to construction. The Cabin Renovation/Reconstruction Project started in September 2022. Cabins 18 and 20 were demolished and removed after any useable materials were salvaged. New foundations were poured and reconstruction proceeded. The cabins currently are complete shells with wheelchair access ramps, doors, windows and siding. The plumbing is roughed in and the electrical panels are installed. Work will continue through the winter. Completion date is May 2023. The Fuel Reduction/Trail project, which improved access to the forest for people with mobility issues, started construction in December of 2021 and was completed in May of 2022. Construction was delayed until the snow pack melted. Final payment was made in May 2022. The Paving project started in May of 2022 and was completed in June of 2022. There was some cosmetic work in July of 2022. and final payment was made in August 2022. The Dock improvements are ongoing, funded by other donators who wanted a project they could identify as their project.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

The Fuel Reduction/Trail project, which improved access to the forest for people with mobility issues. Over twelve hundred feet of walking trails were roughed in across the forest area of the resort and the trails were covered wood chips. For the project dead and dying Balsam were harvested on six acres of resort property and live trees were left. This reduced the forest fuels and the potential of forest fire. The Balsam was processed into chips on site and covered the trail alignment. Picnic tables were placed on the trails and signs were erected noting who funded the trails. Project was completed in May 2022.

The Paving project started in May of 2022 and was completed in June of 2022. The old pavement had been in place since 1986, it had deteriorated and was difficult for our wheel chair guests to negotiate. The old pavement was removed, culverts replaced, sub grade was upgraded and pavement was replaced. Project was completed in August 2022.

The improvements to our docks have been funded by other donations. Projected was completed September 2022.

All projects have got positive feedback from our guests.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 3

The Cabin Renovation/Reconstruction Project started September 2022. Cabins 18 and 20 were demolished and removed after any useable materials were salvaged. New foundations were poured and reconstruction proceeded. The cabins currently are complete shells with wheelchair access ramps, doors, windows and siding. The plumbing is roughed in and the electrical panels are installed. Work will continue through the winter. Completion date is May 2023. February 2023 update. The interior siding in the cabins is complete. the flooring is 90% complete some base board trim needs to be installed after the kitchen cabinets are installed. Kitchen cabinets are installed.

Dissemination

We have installed signs with the ENRTF & LCCMR logo recognizing your investment. We are in the process of adding your logo and recognition to our website. We will be posting on social media about your investment too. We have recognized you on recent visits by Commissioner Larry Herke and Rep. Rob Ecklund. February 2023 update. The LCCMR and Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund Logo was added to the Donor list on the Veterans on the Lake website.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update June 1, 2022

Date Submitted: June 13, 2022

Date Approved: July 1, 2022

Overall Update

Veterans on the Lake Resort was the recipient of a \$553,000 LCCMR Grant in the summer of 2021. Within the Grant proposal there were 3 Activities. 1. Project Construction and Engineering , 2. Trail Paving Project Construction, 3. Cabin Renovation/ Reconstruction Veterans on the Lake began to move the projects forward while waiting for the paper work to be finalized. In early December the State of Minnesota Grant Contract Agreement was signed by all parties and the last permits were approved for the projects. Sealed bids were opened at the regular December VOTL Board meeting and the Board accepted Bids for the Trails Project and Cabin Reconstruction Project. Contracts were signed with the successful bidders in December. Work on the Fuel Reduction Trails Project (walking trail project) was started in December 2021 and completed in May 2022. The paving project is still underway. Down payment money was given to the Cabin Reconstruction contractor for the purchase of materials to complete the project.

Activity 1

Engineering work for the Cabin Reconstruction Project was completed the summer of 2021 by RHA Architect's Inc. These Architectural drawings were required to complete requirements for the USFS Land Use permit. Veterans on the Lake Resort was invoiced \$3,000 and paid that invoice in December 2021. The Balance of the work was done Pro bono (\$3,500) on a \$7,500 total. This activity is complete and came in under budget.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

There are 2 projects within Activity 2. The Paving project is scheduled for the spring of 2022. Work on the Fuel reduction/ Trail Project began in December of 2021 and was completed in May of 2022 by Peterson Landscape & Excavation. Total cost of the Fuel Reduction /Trail project was \$23,500. The final invoice was paid May of 2021. The paving portion of the project is still underway and we would request that the Activity 2 completion date be extended to October 31, 2022. Further, we would ask that the \$46,500 in remaining funds from Activity 1 be shifted to Activity 2 as the price of asphalt and construction has risen.

Activity 3

The Cabin Reconstruction Project was awarded to All Phase Construction Inc. Veterans on the Lake Resort made a partial down payment of \$50,000 on a \$481,914 Project for All Phase Construction Inc. to began the purchase of building Materials. The \$50,000 downpayment was made December of 2021. We need to request that the end date for this Activity be extended to May 31, 2023. Labor shortages, supply chain issues, and weather have caused delays in the project timeline.

Dissemination

Total spent By Veterans on the Lake Resort \$76,500. Amount of LCCMR reimbursement as of May 19,2022 is \$0. We are waiting for Lake County to submit the paperwork we submitted to them on February 17, 2022.