

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2009 Phase 2 Request for Proposals (RFP)

LCCMR ID: 051-B1

Project Title: Homeowners Association Stream Bank Restoration and Stewardship Model

Total Project Budget: \$ \$150,800

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1.25-yrs, July 2009 to Fall 2010

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$68,000.00

Priority: B1. Reduce Soil Erosion

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Last Name: McNamara

Sponsoring Organization: Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization

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Region:

Metro

County Name:

Ramsey

City / Township:

White Bear Township

Summary: Homeowners Associations often lack knowledge of proper streambank management. This project will identify and repair existing erosion issues and promote greater streambank stewardship through education and continued citizen monitoring.

Main Proposal: 1008-2-052-proposal-2009_main_proposal_100108.doc

Project Budget: 1008-2-052-budget-budget worksheet 100108.xls

Qualifications: 1008-2-052-qualifications-VLAMWO Qualifications.doc

Map: 1008-2-052-maps-LCCMR Proposal Map 100108.pdf

Letter of Resolution: 1008-2-052-resolution-TEC_Minutes091908.doc

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Homeowners Association Stream Bank Restoration and Stewardship Model

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Throughout the State, streams and creeks are becoming increasingly impacted by human activity and many stream reaches are not actively monitored or having their issues addressed. The costs to obtain easements and even perform monitoring activities can become burdensome if not impossible for local agencies. Even worse, many adjacent property owners who are often best positioned to monitor the streams, simply do not understand or are not aware of best management practices to help reduce the human impact on the streams. This overall project will not only address existing stream bank erosion issues to improve water quality and reduce sediment loading along a reach where the regulatory organization does not have easement access, but will employ an alternative delivery approach. The project will encourage and develop a partnership between two home owners associations adjacent to Lambert Creek and Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization (VLAWMO) to not only repair the existing erosion issues, but to educate and foster best management practices by the residents related to stream bank health. Additionally, increased exposure to the creek by the residents will encourage participation in VLAWMO's existing greater watershed citizen monitoring program. Resident stewardship will ultimately reduce costly repair projects and the maintenance burden held by the water management organizations as well as increase monitoring opportunities for inclusion in MPCA's stream monitoring program.

This project and its approach is envisioned to be an example for the rest of the Vadnais Lake watershed and may be replicated Statewide. The activities of this effort will become a template for restoration programs in any disturbed watershed where easements are not obtainable, yet the public is willing to be educated and embrace stream bank stewardship, thereby taking an ownership stake of the stream or creek's health. The VLAWMO is responsible for water management of the watershed contributing to Vadnais Lake, the major water supply source for St. Paul Regional Water Service and its 400,000 customers in eight communities. Since Lambert Creek is a substantial contributor to the lake, VLAWMO has focused on its improvement in recent years. Reaches of Lambert Creek have experienced troublesome homeowner practices such as vegetative clearing, invasive planting and structure construction within and near the banks. Lambert Creek is a logical focus and positioned well as an example for the rest of the watershed to showcase proper stewardship activities. Watershed management is not simply management of the physical watershed, but includes the education of its residents and promotion of positive watershed activities. By working with the home owners association, the greatest opportunity exists to educate a greater number of households. The VLAWMO is willing to take up the challenge to develop this alternative strategy and has had success developing both volunteer monitoring programs and community education events in the past.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Stewardship of Lambert Creek by Homeowners Associations **Budget: \$ 19,000**

At its focus, this project will develop a relationship between VLAWMO and the residents of White Bear Preserve Condo Association and Birch Ponds Townhomes. These two developments bound either side of Lambert Creek. The tasks and ultimately the result of the partnership will be an increased and active interest in the health of the creek which will be achieved through educational workshops and establishing trail access to the creek including overlooks and public education points. These education activities and opportunities will foster a pride within the local resident community and effectively promote stewardship of the creek's health.

Deliverables

	Completion Date
1. Coordination Meetings with Home Owners Association	Nov 2009
2. Educational Workshops (2)	Feb 2010
3. Volunteer Monitoring Program Education meeting	April 2010
4. Resident Monitoring and Improved Land Management Practices	Ongoing

Result 2: Inventory of Lambert Creek Erosion and Proposed Restoration and Public Educational/Access Facilities

Budget: \$ 28,000

An engineering evaluation of Lambert Creek between Oakmede Lane and White Bear Parkway is necessary to inventory stream bank erosion sites and propose potential restoration activities. Street runoff treatment, possibly incorporating filtration strips, will be evaluated and targeted at Oakmede Lane and Pond View Lane. The evaluation will also layout out a preliminary alignment for a public access trail

including three lookout points and a pedestrian bridge crossing to Fox Meadow Park. The evaluation will coordinate between White Bear Township, White Bear Preserve Condo Association, Birch Ponds Townhomes and VLAWMO to establish a plan of action to address the erosion sites and promote a public access along the creek.

Deliverables	Completion Date
1. Coordination Meetings with Stakeholders	Aug 2009
2. Field Investigation and Erosion Site Inventory	Aug 2009
3. Report Draft	Dec 2009
4. Review and Support by Stakeholders, Final Report	Feb 2010

Result 3: Stream Bank Restoration and Access Construction **Budget: \$ 171,800**

Based upon the Result 2 described above, construction projects will be designed, advertised and publically bid to repair stream bank erosion, install runoff filtration treatment and develop the proposed access and education trail in the Lambert Creek study reach. The resulting activities will include bio-stabilization of approximately 1300-ft of channel bank, roughly 1500-ft of trail, three overlooks with benches and a bridge crossing. The trail will be of a pervious material and provide handicap accessibility. The overlook sites will provide for sampling location to be incorporated into the citizens monitoring program.

Deliverables	Completion Date
1. Construction Plans and Specifications	April 2010
2. Advertisement and Bid	May 2010
3. Construction Activities, Easement	Oct 2010

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND TIMELINE

A. Project Partners

The project area as shown in the attached figure encompasses stakeholders from White Bear Township (Fox Meadow Park, streets), White Bear Preserve Condo Association, and Birch Ponds Townhomes. Both home owners associations have expressed interest to VLAWMO in the past with respect to future Lambert Creek restoration activities. The Township will likely support improved access and exposure of Fox Meadow Park as will be a likely result of this project.

Since Lambert Creek flows directly into Vadnais Lake, the St. Paul Regional Water Service will likely be a project partner as would MPCA with respect to the sampling and monitoring activities. This application anticipates cooperation and support from these partners complete the described projects.

B. Project Impact

The impact of the overall project will immediately reduce erosion along Lambert Creek and thereby reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Vadnais Lake. The lake is an area valuable resource, not only for wildlife and beauty, but because it supplies much of the St. Paul region with a drinking water source. Addressing the erosion occurring along the creek will also improve the appearance of the creek. Furthermore, the projects goal of landowner stewardship will impact the future health and beauty of the local Lambert Creek reach. The project will serve as an example to the rest of Lambert Creek of how individual land owners can protect their own piece of stream bank. Interested citizens of the larger watershed, and hopefully greater Minnesota, will visit the project site and take home education that can be utilized in their other areas. The ultimate impact will be a improvement to stream bank stewardship statewide by individual property owners using best management practices.

C. Time

The submitted schedule is such that it may begin upon funding allocation in July 2009. If possible, the initial coordination of stakeholders and commencement of the planning study may begin upon knowledge of funding obtainment. The final construction is expected to be the fall of 2010 with voluntary monitoring continuing for perpetuity.

D. Long-Term Strategy

VLAWMO will continue to evaluate and identify erosion issues through the district beyond the completion of the work described for Lambert Creek. Sampling will continue throughout the watershed to continue monitoring the health of the districts waters. VLAWMO has completed stream bank restoration downstream of the project area as well as other improvement projects. This project is to be part of the continued efforts of VLAWMO to address water quality concerns of Lambert Creek from Vadnais Lake to the headwaters of Goose Lake.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT	% FTE
Personnel:		
Stephanie McNamera, VLAWMO Administrator	\$ -	0%
Kristine Lampert, VLAWMO Project Coordinator	\$ -	0%
Contracts:		
TBA Consultant for Erosion Inventory and Proposed Restoration and Public Educaiton/Access Facilities Report	\$ 18,000	
TBA Consultant(s) for Stakeholder Meetings, Workshops	\$ 8,000	
TBA Contractor (competative bid) - 1300-ft Stream Bank Restoration, est. max	\$ 43,000	
TBA Contractor (competative bid) - Water Quality Treatment, 2 locations	\$ 20,000	
TBA Contractor (competative bid) - 1500-ft Trail Access with 3 Overlooks	\$ 25,000	
TBA Contractor (competative bid) - Pedestrian Bridge	\$ 20,000	
TBA Consultant for Construction Observation and Field Representation	\$ 10,800	
Equipment/Tools:	\$ -	
Acquisition (Including Easements): ~2 acres	\$ 6,000	
Restoration: NA	\$ -	
Other: NA	\$ -	
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 150,800	

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Remaining \$ From Previous Trust Fund Appropriation:	NA	NA
Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period:		
White Bear Township for Bridge and Trail Construction	\$ 20,000	<i>not yet discussed</i>
Homeowners Association Funds for evaluation and implementation	\$ 30,000	<i>not yet discussed</i>
VLAWMO Personal funded by VLAWMO for coordination, meetings, etc	\$ 14,000	budgeted
Water Quality Sampling along Lambert Creek to be performed by VLAWMO staff and volunteers during the funding period as part of the established VLAWMO samping program. (Lambert Creek: 2009-2010)	\$ 4,000	budgeted
Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period:	NA	NA
Past Spending:	NA	

Ability of the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization to manage a project and work with grant funding

Stephanie McNamara, Administrator, Project manager

Experience:

- In the last 18 years over \$900,000 of Clean Water Partnership grant and partner funds have successfully completed a diagnostic study on Lambert Creek, done three wetland restoration projects, replaced two monitoring flumes and restored targeted high priority stream bank sites. The final project, Lambert Lake, was highlighted as part of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative.
- Metropolitan Council funded a Smart Use of fertilizer project with an emphasis on public education.
- Other grant funding has been secured and used to fund projects from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and Ramsey County.
- VLAWMO has partnered successfully with volunteers and homeowners groups. The White Bear Preserve Condo Association was part of the earlier Lambert Work and both their board and individual residents were very receptive to additional work during 2007 talks.
- VLAWMO is completing its second Sustainable Lake Management Plan (SLMP) with a stakeholder team over the winter of 2008 -9.
- VLAWMO partnered with two municipalities and an Eagle scout to install a large municipal raingarden.

Monitoring of Lambert Creek

This was done by the St. Paul Regional Water Service through 2006. VLAWMO has been coordinating monitoring efforts, both automated and grab samples in 2007 and 2008.

Kristine Lampert, Program Coordinator

- Kristine authors the annual water quality monitoring report including all watershed monitoring efforts.
- She has also coordinated the DNR trails and waterways access grant programs.
- Kristine also coordinated the shoreline survey and resident survey for Birch Lake for inclusion into the SLMP.
- VLAWMO cost-share program has successfully implemented one raingarden and two shore line restoration projects with homeowner associations.

Homeowners Association Stream Bank Restoration and Stewardship Model

2009 LCCMR PROPOSAL : VADNAIS LAKE AREA WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

