

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 102-C

Project Title:

Metropolitan Conservation Corridors Phase 5 Supplemental

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition

Total Project Budget: \$ \$3,115,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 1 year, 2010 - 2011

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

Accelerated acquisition of 949 acres fee and conservation easements, and accelerated restoration of 135 acres, to protect and enhance critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined metropolitan corridors

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Location:

Region: Central, Metro, SE

County Name: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

City / Township: various

_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

**MAIN PROPOSAL
METROPOLITAN CONSERVATION CORRIDORS
PHASE V SUPPLEMENTAL PROPOSAL (2010)**

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (2 PAGE LIMIT)

(2-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum - retain the bold text and delete all instructions typed in italics)

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase V Supplemental

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

WHY: The explicit purpose of the MeCC partnership is to strategically focus its conservation efforts on remaining critical lands in the broader metropolitan area, from its urban core to its rural perimeter. We fight the loss and damage of these critical lands through fee title acquisition and conservation easements, as well as the restoration of priority lands already partly degraded by urbanization.

Based on 2005 population data, actual population growth throughout our metropolitan region is outpacing projections. Accompanying urbanization permanently alters our remaining high quality land and water habitats. It causes land and water habitat fragmentation, degradation and even complete habitat loss when converted permanently to urban uses.

The economic recession has created a unique opportunity today to accelerate our work and accomplish outstanding conservation objectives. The recession has slowed the rapid pace of urbanization of the greater metropolitan area and, simultaneously, created opportunities to protect lands that otherwise would suffer complete habitat loss or degradation. As a result, the MeCC partners have identified a number of unique and urgent opportunities, which are not funded through our Phase V (2009) allocation and would be no longer be viable by our anticipated 2011 proposal.

GOALS and IMPACTS:

The goal of the MeCC through this supplement to our Phase V project is to permanently protect **949 acres** of critical habitat from degradation and loss through fee title acquisition and conservation easements. In addition, we will restore and enhance **135 acres** of valuable habitat that already has suffered degradation.

By achieving these goals and focusing on the region's critical habitat, we will:

- Strengthen and protect biodiversity in the region
- Protect and improve water quality of our region's lakes, rivers and streams
- Protect existing and create new critical habitat for a vast variety wildlife and rare plant species, including "Species in Greatest Conservation Need."
- Expand public recreational opportunities for residents of the greater Twin Cities Metropolitan Area by offering new "close-to-home" hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and environmental interpretation opportunities
- Strengthen our community's resilience to climate change and
- Benefit our economy.

HOW: MeCC partners work within scientifically determined portions of the region where significant natural habitats or major landscape connections important to our overall quality of life are imminently threatened. The MeCC partnership represents "smart" conservation: scientifically rigorous, proactive, strategic, and cost sharing. MeCC draws on the varied strengths of many partners to protect (fee or easement acquisition), restore, and enhance remaining natural lands.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Acquisition of fee title land or conservation easements **Budget: \$ 3,015,000**
Accelerated acquisition of fee title land and conservation easements to protect critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors of the metropolitan area

Deliverable **Completion Date**
1. 949 acres of critical habitat protected through fee or conservation easement acquisition June 30, 2011

Result 2: Restoration and enhancement of key habitat **Budget: \$ 100,000**
Accelerated restoration and enhancement of critical habitats and already degraded significant habitats on public land or private land that has been protected with a conservation easement within scientifically determined corridors of the metropolitan area.

Deliverable **Completion Date**
1. 135 acres of critical habitat restored or enhanced June 30, 2011

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program
MN Land Trust	Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Friends of the Mississippi River	Mississippi River Valley Habitat Restoration (no current funding request)
Friends of the Minnesota River	Lower Minn. River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Expansion of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoration of 2009 Lost Valley SNA addition
DNR Metro Greenways	Metro Greenways (no current funding request)
DNR Fish and Wildlife	Acquisition and Restoration (no current funding request)
DNR SNA Program	Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Restoration (no current funding request through MeCC)

B. Timeline Requirements

The project is proposed as a one-year supplement to the MeCC Phase V project and is designed specifically to be completed during the July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 time period. The focus of this proposal is on tremendous opportunities involving critical habitat that are “ready to go” and merely needing an infusion of resources – (1) landowners who have agreed to sell their land or put a conservation easement on their land, working with a MeCC partner, because they desire to see it protected and restored to the benefit of wildlife, rare plant species and the public’s enjoyment in perpetuity, and (2) property already protected through fee title or easement that is in immediate need of restoration or on which restoration is underway and needing additional funding and work.

C. Long-Term Strategy

This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors begun in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 – to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the broader Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, a 16 county area that is in the midst of expansion and development that causes habitat loss and fragmentation and permanently converts high quality natural areas to urban uses. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as critical habitat that needs to be protected remains unprotected and in danger of degradation and loss.

MeCC Phase V Supplemental Project Budget 2010

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2010 LCCMR Proposal Submit Form".

(1-page limit, single-sided, 11 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and delete all instructions typed in italics. **Add or delete rows as necessary.** If a category is not applicable you may write "N/A", leave it blank, or delete the row.)

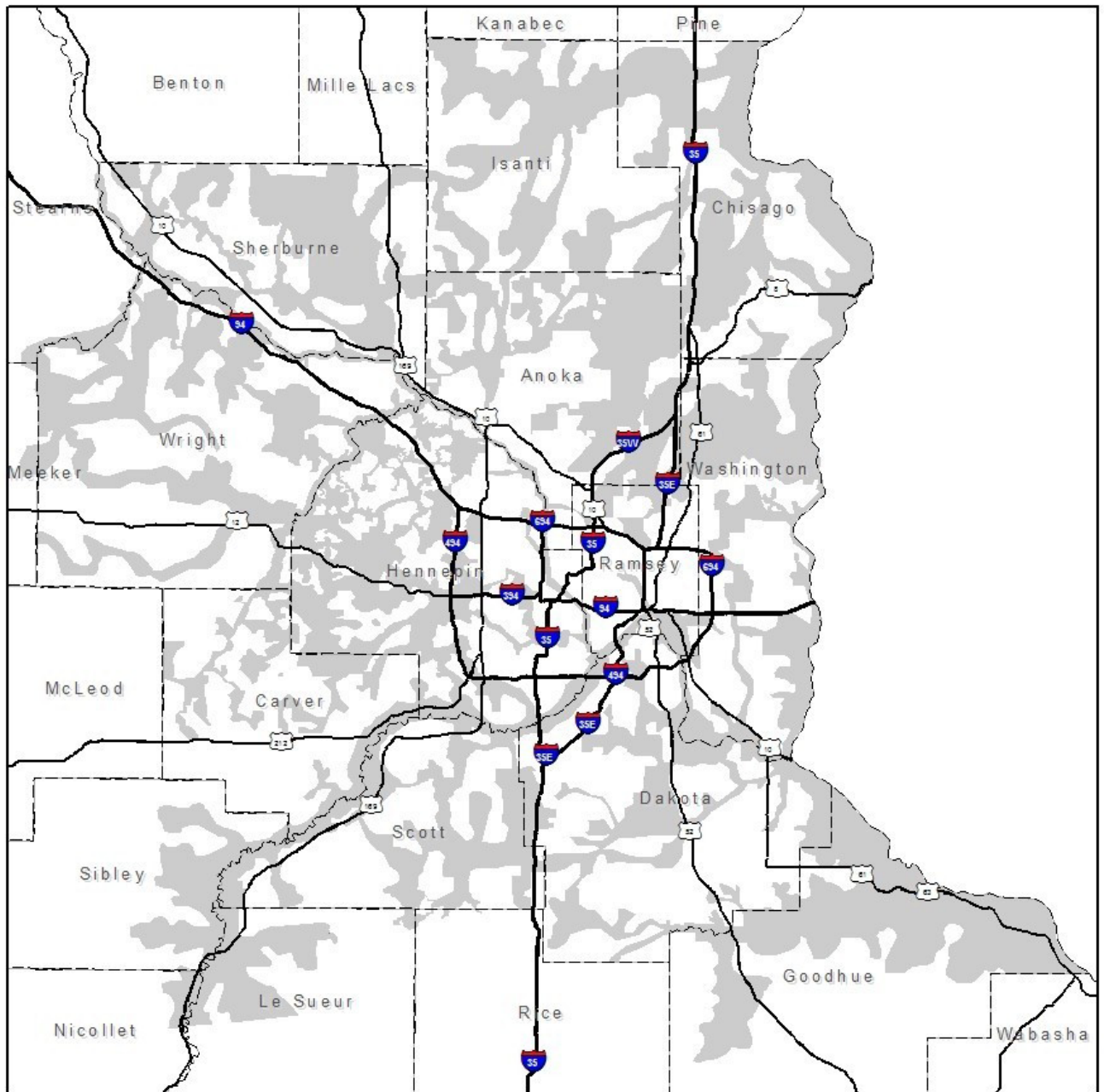
IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET ([Insert # of years for project] years)

BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	AMOUNT
Personnel:	
(1) Conservation Projects Mgr .2 FTE	9,000
Cons Dir, Land Protection Staff, Staff Attorney, Support Staff Salary + Benefits	20,000
(3) Ecologist Project Mgrs (2-5) Field Coordinator/Techs (1) Volunteer Prog Mgr (2) Admin 80% salary + 20% benefits	11,500
Contracts:	
Earthworks for installation of water control structs, earthen dam	66,000
Prairie reconstruction: site prep & seeding	10,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	
Chainsaws, weed whips, and ATV attachments	1,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	
Fee title and conservation easement acquisition (949 acres; to be owned by DNR, USFWS, or another unit of government; and MLT or another conservation organization)	2,950,000
Transaction costs (title, appraisals, maps etc)	15,000
Travel:	
In-state travel	1,000
Additional Budget Items:	
Conservation easement stewardship for 2 easements	30,000
Approved volunteer event supplies	1,500
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 3,115,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
Various non-state sources	1,200,000	<i>Secured</i>
Various non-state sources	657,000	<i>Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
Various state sources	600,000	<i>Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period:		
Federal in-kind for permit applications, engineering, materials & equip; Volunteer labor; Sentence to Serve	18,000	<i>n/a</i>
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (only for partners requesting supplemental funds):		
Of \$1,143,000 appropriated to requesting partners (2008):		
	23,000	<i>Unspent, Unobligated</i>
	111,000	<i>Unspent, Obligated</i>
	1,009,000	<i>Spent</i>
Funding History (ENTF support of entire MeCC Partnership):		
2003	4,850,000	
2005	3,260,000	
2007	2,435,000	
2008	3,150,000	
(recommended by LCCMR) 2009	3,375,000	

Metro Conservation Corridors 2008 Focus Areas



- Interstate Highways
- Secondary Highways
- County Boundaries
- Metro Conservation Corridors

Wayne Sames - Manager, Local Grants Program, DNR (1988 to present)

Responsible for administration of the state Natural and Scenic Area, Regional Parks (outside the Metro Area), Conservation Partners/Environmental Partnerships, and Outdoor Recreation grant programs and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON) grant funds allocated to Minnesota.

Organization Description

The Local Grants Program is a unit of the Office of Management and Budget Services, Department of Natural Resources.