

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

LCCMR ID: 107-C

Project Title:

Lake Zumbro Conservation Corridor Restoration

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

C. Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Acquisition

Total Project Budget: \$ \$149,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, 2010 - 2012

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

Marginal farmland that currently dissects the natural corridor around Lake Zumbro will be restored to prairie, wetland, and woodland in conjunction with the Lake Zumbro Restoration Project.

Name: Dean Albertson

Sponsoring Organization: Lake Zumbro Forever, Inc.

Address: 56131 403rd
Zumbro Falls MN 55991

Telephone Number: (507) 753-4044

Email: doctra@rconnect.com

Fax: (507) 328-6728

Web Address: www.lakezumbro.org

Location:

Region: SE

County Name: Olmsted, Wabasha

City / Township:

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Lake Zumbro Conservation Corridor Restoration

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Corridor areas in the vicinity of Lake Zumbro have been identified in the County Biological Survey as containing some of the most biologically diverse tracts of land in Olmsted County. However, these biologically diverse tracts are becoming increasingly fragmented by agricultural land use and residential development. A unique opportunity will exist for restoring and reconnecting these tracts within the Lake Zumbro corridor during the restoration and dredging of the Lake. Preliminary engineering for the restoration is currently underway and the dredge spoils management plan will specifically identify opportunities for restoring marginal farmland to prairie and forest as a means of reconnecting the areas identified in the County Biological Survey. Dredging is scheduled to be completed in 2011. Without LCCMR funding, dredge spoil sites likely will be returned to crop production and the opportunity to reconnect the natural corridor will be lost.

Areas restored to prairie will be planted with local genotype species as a means of establishing a seed bank to be used in other prairie restorations along the Lake and along the riparian corridor of the Zumbro River. Grant funds would be used to purchase title and/or permanent easements on the sites restored to native forest and prairie. Funding would also be used to hire the professional services of landscape restorers and to do the landscape restorations. All plantings would be done using local genotype seeds and plants. Seed selection and prairie plantings will be done in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Olmsted and Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation Districts. These organizations have extensive experience in planting and maintaining native prairie and forest.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Easements for prairie and forest planting sites. Budget: \$90,000

The Lake Zumbro Improvement Association will work with landowners in the Lake Zumbro corridor to purchase property or easements on 120 acres. A priority will be given to purchasing marginal farmland where prairie and forest plantings can be used to reconnect the natural corridor.

Deliverable: Prairie contracts on 120 acres

Completion Date: July 2011

Result 2: Plant prairie and forest to reconnect the natural corridor. Budget: \$46,000

The Lake Zumbro Improvement Association will work with landowners and the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to establish 120 acres of prairie and forest. Local genotype seeds and plants will be used to establish the plantings. These plantings will serve as a source of local genotype seed and plants for other corridor plantings.

Deliverable: Prairie planted on 120 acres

Completion Date: October 2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The Lake Zumbro Improvement Association is the lead applicant (Sheldon King, President), with cooperation from Lake Zumbro Forever, Inc. (Dean Albertson, President), Zumbro Watershed Partnership (Terry Klampe, Chair), Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District (Floyd Whitaker, Manager), and Olmsted County Water Planning (Terry Lee).

B. Timeline Requirements

The project will be completed over a two year time period beginning in January 2010 and ending October 2012.

C. Long-Term Strategy

Because one of the key elements of this project is the creation of a native prairie and forest seed and plant bank, the project is expected to continue indefinitely through a partnership with the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Those Districts currently provide native prairie and forest seeds and plants to landowners and local units of government. A prairie seed bank established in the eastern part of Olmsted County has been similarly used to restore prairie in Chester Woods Park and in parts of several other County-owned properties. The demand for that seed far exceeds supply.

Lake Zumbro Conservation Corridor Restoration

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

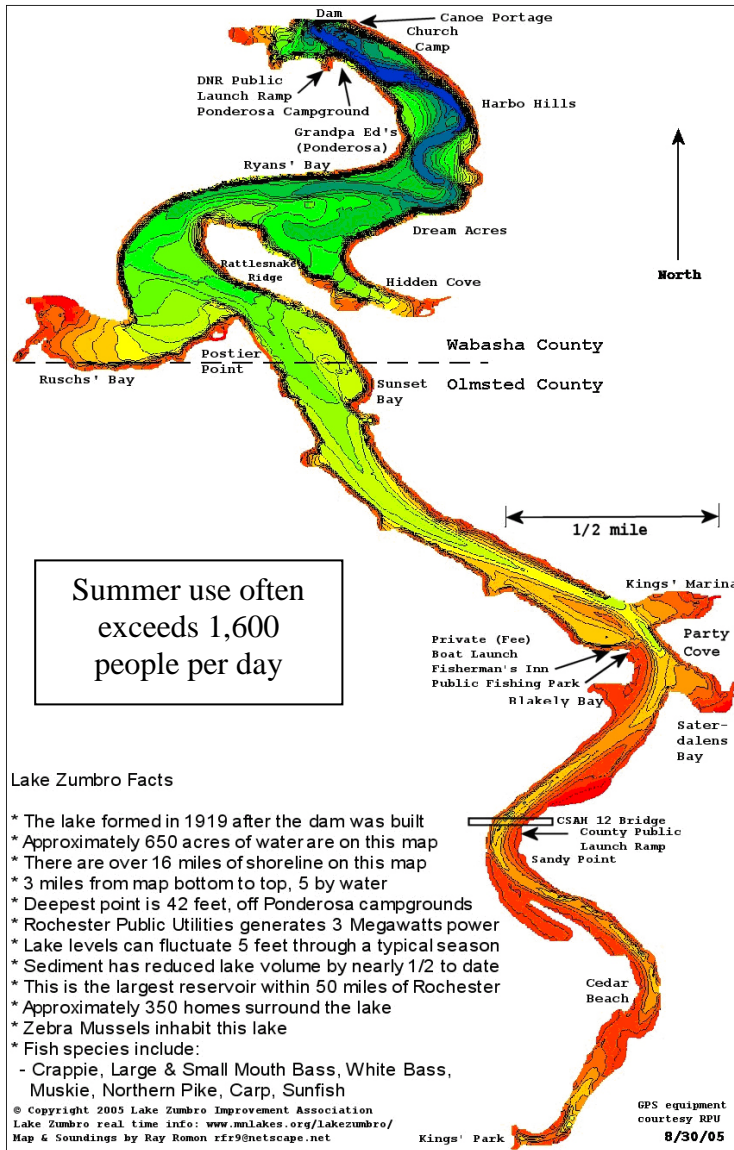
IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (*[Insert # of years for project] years*)

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel:	
Contracts: A landscape restoration firm would be contracted to <i>design and install the landscape plantings.</i>	\$ 46,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Fee title or permanent easements will be secured on 120 acres. Ownership will be by the Lake Zumbro Forever, Inc. a non-profit organization.	\$ 90,000
Travel:	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached.</i>	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 136,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Preliminary engineering of the Lake Zumbro Restoration is currently being completed by Barr Engineering Company using \$100,000 from the City of Rochester (Rochester Public Utilities). Approximately 25% of that work is in identifying and assessing possible dredge spoil/restoration sites.</i>	\$ 25,000	Secured
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Preliminary engineering of the Lake Zumbro Restoration is currently being completed by Barr Engineering Company using \$175,000 in state bonding. Approximately 25% of that work is in identifying and assessing possible dredge spoil/restoration sites.</i>	\$ 43,750	Secured
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>Volunteers from the Lake Zumbro Improvement Association will work with landowners to identify interest in long term easements. Volunteers will work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and landowners in designing appropriate restoration plantings, and with the Olmsted and Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation Districts in getting the areas planted.</i>	\$ 23,000	Pending
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable): <i>Specify \$ and year of appropriation from any current Trust fund appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of \$ in the right-most column.</i>	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2010 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	\$ -	

Lake Zumbro



Map sales benefit Lake Zumbro restoration projects

Lake Zumbro

Providing recreation, wildlife habitat and hydroelectric power for families throughout southeastern Minnesota



Roger Thiemann

Restoring Lake Zumbro

Lake Zumbro is an important recreational lake and a source of renewable hydroelectric power in Southeastern Minnesota. The Lake has the highest population relative to lake area in all of greater Minnesota. Communities within 15 miles of Lake Zumbro that rely on the Lake for lake recreation include Oronoco, Pine Island, Byron, Rochester, Mantorville, Kasson, Plainview, Millville, Hammond, Mazeppa, Zumbro Falls, Goodhue, and Zumbrota. Hydroelectric power from the lake also produces electricity for the City of Rochester.

Sedimentation has already made parts of the original lake inaccessible by shore or unnavigable by boat, and has reduced valuable fish habitat.



In 2002, the **Lake Zumbro Improvement Association (LZIA)** began evaluating options for restoring the lake areas that had been lost to sedimentation.

In 2003, the LZIA developed a plan to establish a separate entity to work within the Zumbro Watershed to slow sedimentation rates.

In 2004, the LZIA held the first “Legislative Night on the Lake” event to introduce legislators to our project.

The Association also helped found the **Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP)**.

The ZWP has since received a \$200,000 federal grant to reduce farmland erosion in the upland watershed. The Partnership is currently working with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in four pilot watersheds. One of those is the Pine Island Creek watershed which flows directly into Lake Zumbro at Rusch’s bay.

In 2005, the LZIA appointed the **Lake Zumbro Restoration Committee**.

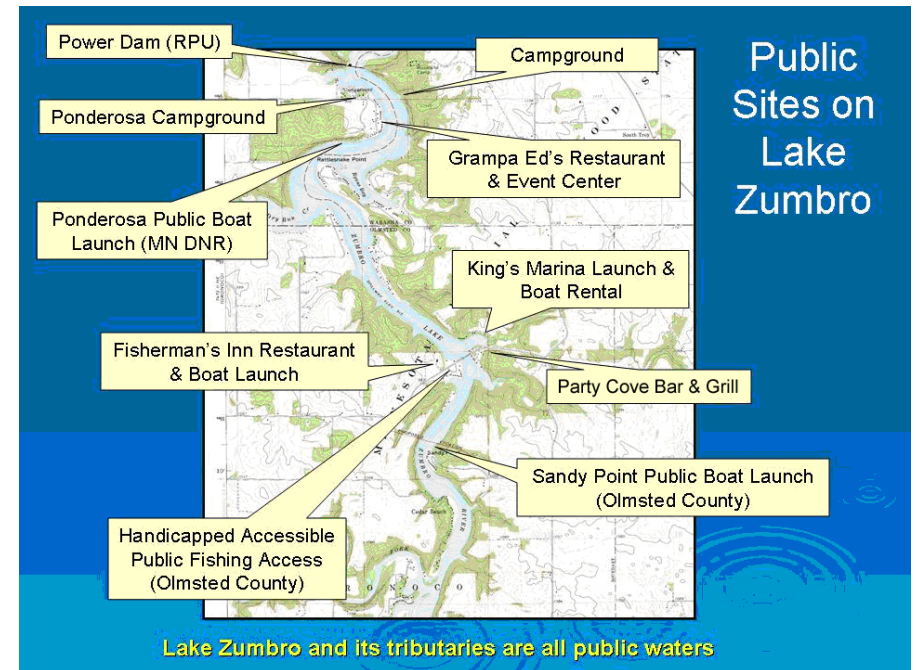
The Committee worked with local residents who contributed approximately \$60,000 of “in-kind” work to measure sediment depth contours and developed a bathymetric map of entire lake. Lake depth maps from 1919, 1957 and 1978 were also used to assess sediment accumulation rates.

In 2006, the LZIA formed a new entity, **Lake Zumbro Forever Inc**, with a non profit tax exempt status pending. The Finance committee raised \$30,000 from Lake Residents and, with matching funds from Rochester Public Utilities, completed an assessment of lake sediments via core sampling. Lab analysis of the core samples found that all of the lake sediment has either a Tier I or a Tier II rating suitable for land disposal. The Association also held a second “Legislative Night on the Lake” event.

In 2007, Olmsted and Wabasha County boards adopted resolutions of support for restoration work on Lake Zumbro which includes supporting funding in state bonding for preliminary engineering costs for lake dredging.

In 2008, **Lake Zumbro Forever Inc** was granted 501 (c) 3 status. Continue efforts to secure funding for preliminary engineering work. Begin project engineering and permitting process.

In 2010, obtain funding for the Lake Restoration Project. Lake Zumbro Forever Inc will continue as the maintenance organization of the lake.



Mission

The Lake Zumbro Improvement Association is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the beauty, environmental character and recreational quality of Lake Zumbro for those now living around it, those using it, and for the generations to follow.

For more information contact:

Sheldon King, Lake Zumbro Improvement Association President
(507) 367-2715
boats500@aol.com

Dean Albertson, Lake Zumbro Restoration Committee Chair
(507) 753-4044
doctra@rconnect.com

<http://www.lakezumbro.org>