

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

LCCMR ID: 126-E1

Project Title:

Central Minnesota Mississippi River Regional Implementation and Planning

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$313,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$0

Summary:

Create Mississippi River corridor plan along 25 miles of river through nine communities. Collaborative regional natural resource protection that demonstrates conservation design resulting in locally supported natural resource protection strategies.

Name: Dennis Fuchs

Sponsoring Organization: Stearns Cty SWCD

Address: 110 2nd Street S, Ste 128
Waite Park MN 56387

Telephone Number: (320) 251-7800 x3

Email: dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net

Fax: (320) 251-9171

Web Address: _____

Location:

Region: Central

County Name: Benton, Stearns

City / Township:

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Central Minnesota Mississippi River Implementation and Planning

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Mississippi River Renaissance...Situated near the headwaters of one of the world's most important rivers and being in the path of accelerated development, the underprotected reach of the Mississippi River from south of Royalton to St. Cloud is a highly attractive target for future housing. Without regional coordination in place, traditional development and land conversion has the potential to harm the river's high quality aquatic habitat that supports a world class smallmouth bass fishery, wildlife habitat connections, viewsheds, public access, and buffer functions.

This proposal builds upon four years of collaborative activity along these 25 miles of river (47 miles of shoreline), including a Natural Resources Inventory, demonstration projects, and community activities. Most recently the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and McKnight Foundation will facilitate the creation of a vision and actionable goals for the entire reach of the river. The goal of this project is to build on the vision developed from the McKnight project, develop a community supported corridor plan and put in place viable conservation alternatives to traditional development.

The challenge is that, increasingly, organizations and agencies (PCA, DNR, U of Minnesota's CURA, 1000 Friends of Minnesota, and others) are realizing that many growing communities need continued assistance to integrate natural resource information in planning and to translate that into action. In addition, the very communities that are experiencing growth are many times the communities that do not have the technical or financial resources to adequately manage growth while preserving sensitive natural areas (Ameregis / DNR, 2006).

The benefactors of healthy natural systems are not only the aquatic and terrestrial species, but homeowners and communities who, as demonstrated through local comprehensive planning processes, have consistently voiced a desire to have healthy natural systems nearby.

This proposal will capitalize on current momentum and seamlessly move the project to implementation. It is anticipated that the planning process will crystallize the role of natural systems in the communities, the communities will place values on these natural systems and finally, activities and / or community actions be put into place to maintain or improve the functions and values of these natural systems. Demonstration along the way of practices like collaborative natural resource planning on particular development proposals (concept plans) is critical to gaining acceptance by local units of government. Demonstration of river friendly erosion control measures is also very important. An expected outcome may include communities adopting conservation overlay district whose protection strategies are consistent throughout the region. It is expected that we work with communities to advance local ordinances relating to: steep soils, bank alterations, vegetation management, erosion control, setbacks to the river, and others. Local Units of Government have been, and will continue to be, convened to reduce barriers to communication and cooperation and existing avenues of collaboration will be utilized.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Prepare Local Units of Government for implementation of river corridor plan **Budget:** \$98,000
Leverage DNR Community Assistance LCCMR proposal and build on it by developing and delivering organizational support, technical support and other financial incentives to developers, landowners and communities for community conservation activities.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Provide 4 workshops to LGUs targeting community planning and natural resources.	2011
2. Install a shoreline stabilization demonstration project utilizing natural materials targeting Mississippi River Park in Stearns County or another highly visible site.	2011
3. Develop conservation design "concept plans" on three sites adjacent to the	2011

Mississippi River.

4. Generate a central MN Mississippi River Portal (web based)

2010

Result 2: Development of a Regional Mississippi River Corridor Plan

Budget: \$ 215,000

Working across geopolitical boundaries, develop a river corridor plan that addresses opportunities to enhance natural systems in already developed reaches of the river and to build in preservation strategies for undeveloped reaches of the river. The Mississippi River Renaissance Project with funding from the McKnight Foundation will have developed a vision that address all nine communities along this 25 mile stretch of the River (see map). More importantly the already completed Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) data for this stretch of the river will be the foundation for the plan.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Gather and consolidate GIS data with demographic trends and planned development for the entire stretch of the river	2011
2. Work with Communities to prioritize natural resource protections areas & development areas	2011
3. Development of a River Corridor Plan with goals, objectives, strategies and detail priority maps. This information will be distributed in a poster format to allow for more visualization.	2011

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Project Team

Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District – Dennis Fuchs, Kimberly Thielen Cremers	Coordination
Mid Minnesota Mississippi River RC&D – Jim Onstad	Funding / Org. Support
MN Department of Natural Resources – Mark Hauck, Sharon Pfeifer	NR Data, Processes
Minnesota Waters – Marian Bender	Citizen Engagement
Central Minnesota Community Foundation	Citizen Engagement

Partners

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District - Gerry Maciej, Annie Felix	Implementation Asst.
National Park Service – Lark Weller	Implementation Asst.
Local Units of Government	Implementation Asst.

B. Timeline Requirements

This project is expected to take one full year (12 months) to complete.

C. Long-Term Strategy

Additional funding for this project would be required when implementation of the Mississippi River Corridor Plan is undertaken. The strategy for funding this includes local partnerships as well as past funding partners. This project is the culmination of support from: Mid Minnesota Mississippi River RC&D, McKnight Foundation, MN DNR, Initiative Foundation, City of Sauk Rapids, City of Sartell, Bush Foundation, and the Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club.

Project Budget

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET

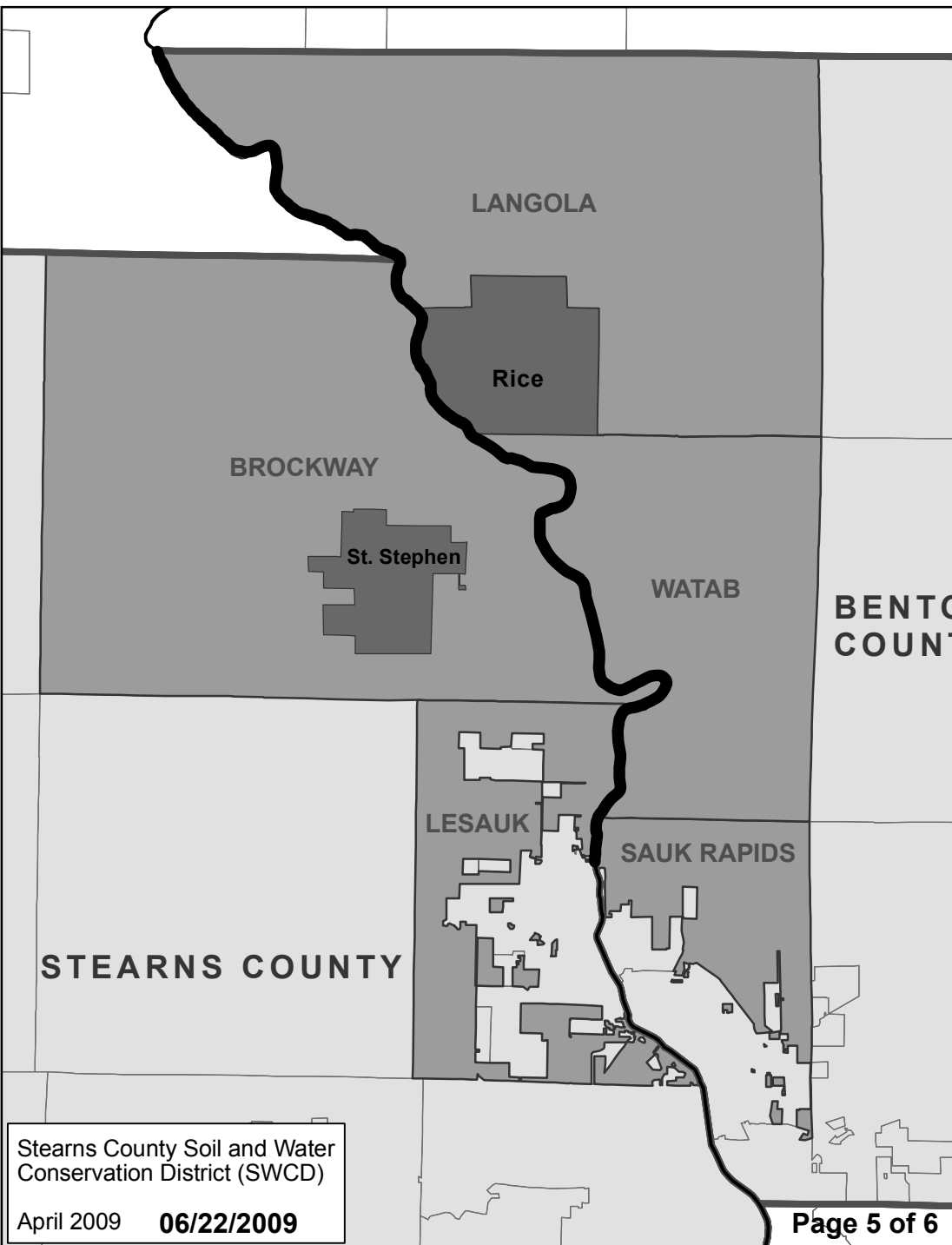
July 2010-June 2011

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: <i>Mississippi River Coordinator currently on soft dollar, @ Stearns SWCD - 70% salary, 30% benefits for 12 months</i>	\$ 110,000
Contracts:	\$ -
Planning Specialist- Work with the nine communities to prioritize natural resource protections areas & development areas	\$ 110,000
GIS Specialist-Gather and consolidate GIS data with demographic trends and planned development for the entire stretch of the river	\$ 10,000
Graphics and Technical Writer-Development of a River Corridor Plan with goals, objectives, strategies and detail priority maps. This information will be distributed in a poster format to allow for more visualization.	\$ 25,000
Consultants to assist in 4 workshops	\$ 3,000
Consultants to develop conservation design "concept plans" on three sites adjacent to the river. No contractor is yet identified.	\$ 20,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Printing/mailling costs	\$ 5,000
Additional Budget Items: Installation of one natural riparian buffer	\$ 30,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 313,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

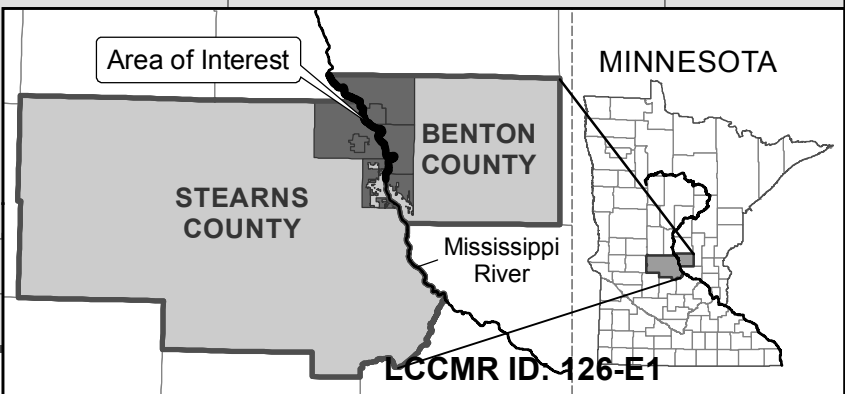
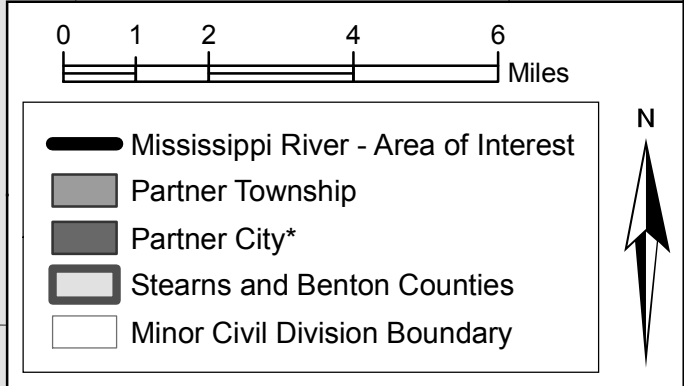
<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash \$ to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	\$ 30,000	<i>Pending: Local and Federal</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		<i>Indicate: Secured or</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: <i>In-Kind contributions from the Stearns County SWCD are in the form of other staff, supplies, automobile availability=\$40,000 DNR Community Assistance Program Staff = \$25,000</i>	\$ 65,000	
Funding History: <i>Mid-MN Mississippi RC&D (\$1,000), Bush Foundation (\$65,000) McKnight Foundation (\$45,000), DNR Greenways Planning Grant (\$30,000), NRI-City of Sartell, Sauk Rapids (~\$17,00) Initiative Foundation (~\$14,000), McKnight Foundation (\$130,000) and Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club (\$1,500)</i>	\$ 303,500	

Central Minnesota Mississippi River Regional Implementation and Planning Area



Communities	Acres, 2003	Population, 2000	Linear River Miles, 2003
Benton County			
Langola Township (East/West)	26,367	916	6.6
City of Rice	3,900	711	2.4
Watab Township	14,309	2,920	9.5
Sauk Rapids Township	5,271	723	0.8
Stearns County			
Brockway Township	33,429	2,551	10.7
City of St. Stephen	2,358	860	0.0
LeSauk Township	7,948	1,880	4.6
Total Lineal Miles of River			25.7

Sources of Data: Minor Civil Divisions, 2003, MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC) and 2000 Minor Civil Divisions, Legislative Coordinating Commission - GIS Office, includes population data.



Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

April 2009 **06/22/2009**

Vitae

Dennis J. Fuchs, District Administrator
Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District
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Waite Park, MN 56387
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Work Experience:

STEARNS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(website: <http://www.stearnscountyswcd.net/>)
Waite Park, MN. District Administrator, 1996-present.

Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, Organization Description:

The Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) mission is to provide local leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources through programs and partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations, and government

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE St. Paul, MN. Soil Scientist, 1994-1996.
Assisted local and state units of government in evaluating agricultural nutrient management practices on water quality Designed and coordinated a variety of "Best Management Practices" implementation programs with organizations such as the Minnesota Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Clean Water Partnership staff. Worked on LCMR funded demonstration projects, such as, field-scale paired-watershed comparison between Variable Rate Technology (VRT) and conventional technology

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA--SOUTHWEST EXPERIMENT STATION Lamberton, MN.
Scientist, 1988-1994.

Assisted in the supervision of all plot work, full-time technicians and part-time summer employees. Conducted research in specialized areas of soil science and agronomy, including site specific research and soil erosion management. Statistically analyzed, summarized and reported research findings

Education

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, St. Paul, MN. 1986-1988

Master of Agriculture, Soil Science; Hydrology Minor

Master project; extensive study of earthworm distribution in MN and effect on soil properties

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, St. Paul, MN. 1983-1986

B.S. degree, Agronomy; Applied Agricultural Economics Minor

Organizations/Committees

- Certified Crop Adviser
- Licensed Professional Soil Scientist
- Soil and Water Conservation Society member
- American Society of Agronomy & Soil Science member
- MN Agriculture Rural Leadership alumni member
- Pheasants Forever member
- National Wild Turkey Federation member