

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

LCCMR ID: 135-E1

Project Title:

Blue Earth County Greenprint

LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:

E. Natural Resource Conservation Planning and Implementation

Total Project Budget: \$ \$137,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ \$10,000

Summary:

This project will develop local plans and ordinances identifying priority areas for the protecting, enhancing and restoring priority natural resources for wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation.

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Sponsoring Organization: Blue Earth County

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Location:

Region: SE

County Name: Blue Earth

City / Township: Mankato

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

MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Blue Earth County Greenprint Plan Implementation - Phase II

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project is necessary to implement a comprehensive natural resources vision reflecting the interests of the county and the region. Blue Earth County is in the final stages of completing the first phase of the Greenprint natural resources plan. The goal of the project is to develop local plans and ordinances for adoption that will identify priority areas for the protecting, enhancing and restoring priority natural resources for wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation.

The Greenprint involved committees and workgroups of local technical and citizen representatives of broad interests, including wildlife, wetlands, water quality, recreation, land development, agriculture and mining. The process involved identifying, assessing and prioritizing natural resources areas. In an agriculturally dominated county with more 550 miles of rivers and streams, 163 miles of ditches and 541 miles of tile ditches prioritizing areas to achieve multiple natural benefits and recreational opportunities will be critical. Habitat connectivity is proving to be important criteria for identifying the high priorities. The Greenprint committee and County Board of Commissioners require a plan that is citizen-driven and defensible. Models were developed using GIS-supported, locally-determined and scientifically-based methods. On-line forums and two open houses were held, and the project has been well received.

Phase II will be development of formal plans and ordinances for local adoption by multiple jurisdictions, including a Master Plan for Mining Reclamation, Wetland Management Plan and ordinance, and a Park and Recreation Plan. Draft frameworks have been completed for mining and wetland plans. The community-based process will be expanded to include workshops with each municipality, Planning Commission members, County and City Parks Boards, the WCA TEP and other community groups. Citizen surveys, newsletters and other tools will be used in Phase II. With cuts in local government aid, cities are unable to contribute local cash to the project. Municipalities contract for engineering, legal and other services at an hourly rate.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Result 1: Complete citizen participation plan Budget: \$10,000

Project manager and others will prepare a detailed citizen participation plan.

Deliverable

1. *Participation plan, finalize advertising budget*
2. *Advertising*
3. *Establish web site*
4. *Develop community surveys, presentations, on-line forums, etc.*

Completion Date

September 1, 2010
ongoing
October 1, 2010
ongoing

Result 2: Complete Wetland Management Plan and Ordinance Budget: \$ 55,000

Work group meetings with citizen and technical representatives such as WCA TEP, land developers, wildlife and other conservation representatives, city engineers, planners and other staff, DNR, MNDOT, NRCS, BWSR, USFWS, MPCA. There will be community-based, focused work sessions with wildlife and conservation representatives, developers and others.

Result 3: Complete Master Plan for Mining Reclamation Budget: \$ 50,000

Work group meetings with citizen and technical representatives such as wildlife and other conservation representatives, county, city and township representatives, engineers and planners DNR, MNDOT, BWSR, USFWS. There will be community-based, focused work sessions with wildlife and conservation representatives, mine owners and operators, developers and others.

Deliverables	Completion Date
1. Hire consultants, develop work plans, meeting with work groups	November 2010
2. Work group meetings, community meetings and first Wetland Plan draft	March 2011
3. Work group meetings, community meetings and first Mining Plan draft	June 2011
4. Wetland Plan finalized based on comments and suggestions	June 2011
5. Mining Plan finalized based on comments and suggestions	August 2011
6. Prepare draft Wetland ordinances	September 2011
7. Work group meetings, community meetings, other citizen input	March 2012
8. Final draft Wetland ordinance	April 2012
9. Final draft Mining ordinance	May 2012

Result 4: Complete County Park and Recreation Plan Budget: \$17,000

Work group meetings with citizen and technical representatives, including county and city parks boards and staff, DNR, other interested citizens. There will be surveys and other activities to obtain citizen ideas and views about parks, trails, recreation and open space in the county and region.

Deliverable	Completion Date
1. Hire consultant, develop work plan, meeting with work group	December 2010
2. Work group meetings, community meetings	June 2011
3. Citizen surveys, open houses, etc.	July 2011
4. First Draft Park Plan	August 2011
5. Work group meetings, community meetings	November 2011
6. Plan revisions based on comments and suggestions and Final Draft	January 2012

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

This project will involve continued Greenprint committee involvement plus representatives from all eleven municipalities in the county, the SWCD staff and supervisors, township supervisors, community groups. Work groups include local technical staff from DNR, BWSR, MPCA, MNDOT and others. The project manager and consultants will essentially be distilling the expert opinions of citizens and technical experts involved with this project. Some of the citizen members are Henry Quade, Scott Haefner, Bill Douglas, Wayne Krosch, Mark Bosaker.

B. Timeline Requirements

This project involves overlapping activities and is expected to take two full years to complete plans and ordinances ready for public hearing and adoption.

C. Long-Term Strategy

This project focuses on regulation and targeting to be used in transportation, water quality and other plans. It is expected to be ongoing for twenty years or more. Updates will be made as information and technology allows. Implementation will be through targeted wetland banks and mitigation projects, water quality implementation funding, Blue Earth County Pheasants group, private interests, cities and counties, and many others interested in furthering the Greenprint conservation vision.

Project Budget

Blue Earth County Greenprint- Phase II

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

IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ -
SWCD- one staff - 100% toward salary	\$ 10,000
Contracts:	
Consultant - Aggregate Mining, Master Plan for Mining Reclamation- <i>to be hired</i>	\$30,000
Consultant - Wetland Management Plan and Ordinance - <i>to be hired</i>	\$30,000
Consultant - County Park Plan - <i>to be hired</i>	\$12,000
City Engineers, consulting engineers paid on an hourly basis. Nine cities including, Mapleton, St. Clair, Good Thunder, Amboy, Eagle Lake, Madison Lake, Lake Crystal, Pemberton, Mapleton (9)	\$45,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: Public information and participation, meeting expenses, including room rental, advertising, mailings and refreshments, web site development and updates and community forums. Costs estimated based on previous phases of Greenprint planning project.	\$ 10,000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR	\$ 137,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Source: County	\$ 10,000	<i>pending County budget approval</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	n/a	
In-kind Services During Project Period: Project Management: County Land Use Planner Mapping and GIS: County GIS Specialist, Work Group Staff: County Parks Director, WCA Administrator, Zoning Administrator, County Ditch Manager, County Public Information Specialist 1.5 FTE including benefits. Staff and elected officials in municipalities and other non-agency staff work group members \$30,000. Note: no in-kind value assigned to LiDAR, GIS, updated aerial imagery and other county data provided with local funds.	\$120,000	
Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):	n/a	
Funding History: The Greenprint planning project was initiated in part with grant funds received several years ago, including \$20,000 from BWSR and \$20,000 from DNR several years ago. These funds were spent and draft plans and frameworks completed. Note: This amount does not include any county cash, LiDAR, GIS or other in-kind related to the Greenprint.	\$40,000	spent in previous years

Julie Conrad
Project Manager Qualifications

Title: Land Use and Natural Resources Planner

Organization: Blue Earth County, located in south central Minnesota.

County seat: Mankato

Years experience: 20 years working with solid waste management, feedlots, land use plans and ordinances, grant writing and administration, water quality related plans, prepared two County Water Management Plans, coordinated several Clean Water Partnerships, managed Greenprint Plan process.

Education: BS, MSU-Mankato, Urban and Regional Planning and MA, MSU-Mankato, Urban and Regional Studies

