

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

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**LCCMR ID: 204-F**

**Project Title:**

Sand Creek Watershed Wetland Education & Restoration Project

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

F. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$27,500

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

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$0

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**Summary:**

Using a hands-on approach, the purpose of this grant is to educate Rice County students on the importance of wetlands while having them assist with a wetland restoration project.

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**Name:** Jennifer Mocol Johnson

**Sponsoring Organization:** Rice County Planing & Zoning

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Faribault MN 55021

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**Location:**

**Region:** SE

**County Name:** Rice

**City / Township:** Wheatland Township

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

# **MAIN PROPOSAL**

## **PROJECT TITLE: SAND CREEK WATERSHED WETLAND EDUCATION & RESTORATION PROJECT**

### **I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The landscape of Rice County has changed greatly since pre settlement. The Sand Creek Watershed, located in northwestern Rice County drains 271 square miles to its tributary to the Minnesota River (Sand Creek Fluvial Geomorphic Assessment). What once existed as a series of large wetland complexes (rather than distinct channels), developed into agricultural land and now the net effect of several decades of change is the loss of thousands of acres of wetlands, or less than 25% of what originally existed.

Because wetlands are not visible on the landscape, and students have not grown up near them, there is little understanding as to the function wetlands serve, as well as the value placed on them. The current Rice County Water Resource Management Plan identifies Wetland "Education" as a major goal.

Working with area educators in Faribault, Northfield, and New Prague school districts targeting seventh to ninth grades, as well as youth organizations, and county volunteers, including the Rice County Coalition of Lakeshore Associations (COLA) this project aims to provide students with both classroom and hands-on experience in wetland restoration. Students will learn about the different types of wetlands (using Circ. 39), assist in finding the appropriate plants for the Demonstration Site, look at the function of wetlands, learn the many relationships that exist within the wetland, learn about the pre settlement and post settlement landscape, and how the change in landscape has affected the environment. Students will not only learn about Earth/Environmental Science, they will also receive a greater understanding of History, and Composition.

The Primary Goal of this project is to provide wetland education to the youth of Rice County this will be done both in the classroom and outdoors. Activities in the classroom to assist in meeting this goal will include but is not limited to the following: Lecture on Wetland Types and Quick Overview, Group Discussion on Wetland Function, Wetland Jeopardy, Scientific Experiment on Factors Affecting Plant Growth (see below for further details), and an analysis of pre and post settlement landscape changes and their effect on the environment. After the wetland education is complete, students will have the opportunity to assist in a hands-on demonstration project, planting the plants chosen by students.

### **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS**

#### **Result 1: Wetland Education Budget: \$ 15,500**

The educational component includes working with school districts to create a curriculum for wetland education, developing the necessary material for students (including the activities listed above), and following through to determine whether students gained appropriate knowledge/understanding of the subject. Additionally, landowner/public education will also be incorporated into the project.

#### **Deliverable**

- |   | <b>Completion Date</b> |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Meeting with area educators to develop and schedule wetland courses            | September 2010         |
| 2. Create all needed material for students, including handouts, experiments, etc. | January 2011           |
| 3. Complete education component, and once finished give students survey           | April & May 2011       |

to determine if they felt they learned from the subject.

**Result 2: Wetland Demonstration Site Budget:** \$12,000 (Plants and supplies for planting). The hands-on component of this grant involves restoring a demonstration site located in Sand Creek. Students will learn the 'how to' of site restoration.

**Deliverable**

1. Complete PR for Demo Project, and 'Get the Word Out'
2. Complete the Wetland Demo. Project

**Completion Date**

Late March-April  
2011  
Late May 2011

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

**Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, Rice County Water Planner/ Program Manager**

*Role: Work with area educators and students, Create/Complete course curriculum and activities, determine the restoration needed for project, order plants, Advertise/PR for Project,*

**Tim Labs, Rice SWCD District Program Manager**

*Role: Provide Technical Assistance*

**Danielle Waldschmidt, Rice SWCD Stormwater-Technician**

*Role: Technical Assistance*

**Beth Kallestad, Executive Director Cannon River Watershed Partnership**

*Role: Advertise/PR*

**Noel Stratmoen, Rice County Coalition of Lake Associations President**

*Role: Advertise/PR*

**Rice County School Districts**

*Role: Assist in the curriculum development and scheduling*

**B. Timeline Requirements**

The proposed timeline for completion is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. After the initial funding is received, the Program Manager will work with area educators, and create a curriculum with activities. The educational component will occur during the months of March and April, while the demonstration project will occur during the last week of May, 2011. The reason for this timing is due to weather/planting constraints that would occur during the colder temperatures.

**C. Long-Term Strategy**

This is a one time request. Once the educational component is complete, the goal is to give area educators the necessary tools to add this topic to the curriculum. Additionally, it is hoped that the demonstration project will provide additional press to the subject, so interested individuals will know what resources are available (such as RIM and WRP) and why wetlands are important.

## Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET 1 years)

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> <i>(See list of Eligible &amp; Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Jennifer Mocol-Johnson (currently a full-time Water Planner), LCCMR Grant Project Manager will be organizing students and creating educational curriculum. In addition, Jennifer will be coordinating with selected landowner and other agencies on wetland restoration demonstration site. It is projected Jennifer will spend on average 25% of her time on this project	\$ 12,500
<b>Contracts</b>	NA
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Purchasing of plants from native plant nursery (estimate developed from previous job costs at similar wetland size)	\$ 7,500
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Cost of supplies/tools needed for planting	\$ 1,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Cost of supplies incurred for working with students during curriculum development	\$ 4,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Brochure & other public informational materials	1,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements)</b>	NA
<b>Travel:</b> Travel within the county to meet school districts and area educators, also travel to demonstration site, etc.	\$ 500
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Printing	1,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 27,500</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period</b>	NA	NA
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period</b>	NA	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Homeowner and other volunteer planting, technical assistance from SWCD, PR and newsletter write-ups from CRWP and COLA, and School District Assistance	\$ 25,000	
<b>Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable)</b>	NA	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
<b>Funding History</b>	NA	

# Sand Creek Watershed: Wetland Restoration Demonstration Project

**Legend**

-  Political Township
-  Sand\_Creek\_Watershed\_Lakes
-  Sand\_Creek\_Watershed\_Parcels
-  Sand\_Creek\_Restorable\_Wetland
-  Sand\_Creek\_Watershed
-  City Limits
-  2007\_Photo.sid

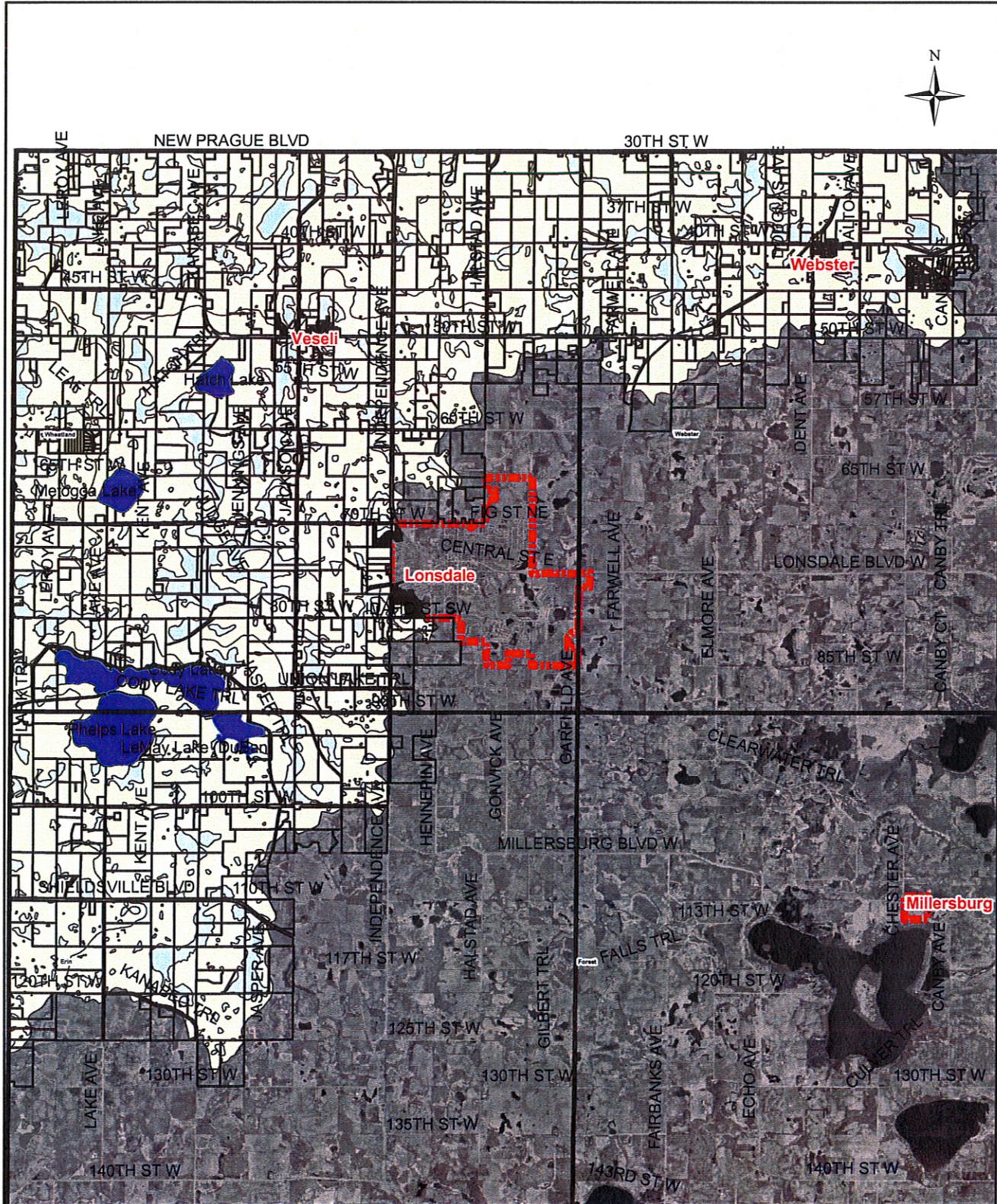
**Value**

High : 255

Low : 15

 Roads

GIS by Rice County  
Map features are representative of original data sources and do not replace or modify land surveys, deeds, or other legal instruments defining land ownership or use.  
Date: July 31, 2008





# RICE COUNTY

PLANNING & ZONING

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(507) 645-9576

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(507) 744-5185

TDD  
(507) 332-6138

## **SAND CREEK WATERSHED: WETLAND RESTORATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

### Organization Description:

The Mission of Rice County is *to proactively address the needs of the public we serve in an efficient and effective manner to enhance the quality of life for the citizens.*

**Rice County Planning and Zoning Department** is charged with several functions, including:

1. Preparing and Implementing the County Comprehensive Plan for all townships
2. Developing long range land-use and natural resource management plans
3. Protecting surface water and groundwater in Rice County
4. Educating and public outreach to Rice County residents regarding water quality, environmental health, and nuisance issues
5. Issue all building permits, on-site sewer permits, conditional use permits, administrative permits, etc.

### Project Manager Qualifications and Technical Assistance:

<b><i>Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, Rice County Water Planner</i></b>	2007-Current
Minnesota State University, Mankato M.A., Urban Planning	2007
Minnesota State University, Mankato B.S., Environmental Science, and Geography	2004

### Technical Assistance:

<b><i>Tim Labs, Rice SWCD District Program Manager</i></b>	1981-Current
University of Minnesota, Crookston, Associates Natural Resource	1977
Certified Wetland Delineator	
Assisted in restoring over 2,000 acres of wetlands	

<b><i>Danielle Waldschmidt, Rice SWCD District Technician- Stormwater</i></b>	2007- Current
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities B.S., Environmental Science	2007