

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 043-B**

**Project Title:** Crooked Lake Aquatic Habitat Re-establishment

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**Category:** B. Water Resources

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 512,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2.5 yrs, July 2011 - Dec 2013

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

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**Summary:**

Re-establishing the Crooked Lake bed will permanently preserve habitat for waterfowl and other aquatic wildlife through a perpetual conservation easement. Flood reduction will occur through reduced peak flows.

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**Name:** Holly Kovarik

**Sponsoring Organization:** Sauk River Watershed District

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Sauk Centre MN 56378

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**Web Address:** www.srwdmn.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Central

**Ecological Section:** Minnesota and NE Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B)

**County Name:** Douglas

**City / Township:** Osakis Township

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_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

## 2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Crooked Lake Aquatic Habitat Re-establishment

### I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Re-establishing aquatic habitat in the Crooked Lake bed will provide multiple benefits to the environment. Judicial Ditch 2 (JD2) effectively drained Crooked Lake in 1902 converting critical aquatic habitat to cropland. Restoring the lake bed to a standing water wetland would reduce the excessive flooding that occurs each year during snow melt and heavy rainfall events. Retaining floodwaters within the re-established wetland will provide retention for nutrient deposition and plant uptake and create a critical habitat area for aquatic wildlife. Nutrient runoff from the cropland upstream would be filtered through the wetland to be utilized by aquatic vegetation. The restored wetland will enhance the quality of water leaving JD2 before discharging to Osakis Lake.

Within the Crooked Lake basin, a landowner is willing to restore approximately 200 acres of cropland back into a wet habitat area to restore a portion of the drained lake. This project proposes to excavate strategic areas within this parcel to create an aquatic ecosystem treatment train that will benefit habitat, provide floodwater storage and improve water quality. The proposed project will efficiently remove nutrients and restore critical habitat. Water quality monitoring will be conducted upstream and downstream of the wetland site to quantify the nutrient reduction for the first two years. Observations will be made to document habitat establishment after the third year.

By re-establishing this portion of the Crooked Lake bed, waterfowl and other aquatic wildlife will have a permanent habitat that will be preserved through a perpetual easement held by the Douglas County Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

### II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES.

**Activity :1** Establish a project contract for identified parcel **Budget:** \$1,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>The SRWD will work with its attorney to develop a project contract with the landowner to re-establish approx. 200 acres of the Crooked Lake bed into a standing water wetland. The perpetual easement will be established and held by the Douglas County NRCS.</i>	August 2011

**Activity 2:** Contract with an Engineer to Design and establish the wetland **Budget:** \$45,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>The contract engineer will calculate storage volume needed for the project and design an effective wetland system. State LIDAR data will be used to determine project size based on watershed runoff. Engineer will provide project inspections and technical assistance.</i>	August 2011

**Activity 3:** Re-establish a standing water wetland on identified property **Budget:** \$ 453,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>A competitive bid process will be conducted to select a contractor. SRWD and engineer will develop a project contract prior to construction</i>	September 2011
2. <i>Construct the standing water wetland by excavating strategic areas during frozen conditions to minimize impact and reduce project cost.</i>	Jan. 2012 –March 2012
3. <i>SRWD staff will conduct local plant surveys for available native plants. These plants will be harvested and replanted around the wetland to accelerate plant growth for habitat. Local volunteers will assist in plantings</i>	June 30, 2012

**Activity 5:** Develop a long term maintenance plan for the established wetland **Budget:** 2,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>The SRWD will work with the landowner, contract engineer, DNR and Douglas NRCS/SWCD to generate a long term maintenance plan for the established wetland that will ensure the integrity of the project.</i>	September 2012

**Activity 5:** Conduct water quality monitoring for project effectiveness. **Budget:** \$ 10,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. <i>Monitoring sites will be installed upstream and downstream of the project to record water quality conditions before the flow enters the wetland system and after. Data will be used to measure the effectiveness of the project. Data results will be shared with the general public, stakeholders, and the MPCA on the SRWD website and via reporting.</i>	April 2013-Oct. 2013 and April 2014-Oct. 2014

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

**A. Project Team/Partners:** The Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) encompasses portions of five counties. This project is located entirely in Douglas County. The project partners listed below have demonstrated strong partnerships and leadership in addressing water quality and quantity concerns throughout the Osakis Lake watershed. The following organizations will be participating in this project:

Project Partner	Responsible for:
Sauk River Watershed District	project coordination and financial tracking
Douglas County SWCD	technical assistance, soils data & surveying for design
Douglas County NRCS	attaining the perpetual easement for said property
Planning and Zoning	assist landowner with required permits
MNDNR	technical assistance for habitat establishment & hydrology
JD2 Drainage Authority	permitting requirements if deemed necessary
Ducks Unlimited	assist in seeding native vegetation around wetland
Friends of the Sauk River	assist in plant survey for native plants plus harvesting
Osakis Sportsmen's club	assist in harvesting and replanting live stakes
Osakis Lake Association	assist in harvesting and replanting live stakes
Alexandria Sportsmen's Club	assist with planting and seeding of native vegetation.

As the project sponsor, funds will be channeled through the SRWD to implement this project. Technical expertise will be provided by the local agencies and contract engineer. Volunteer organizations will assist in planting and seeding and project inspection for project integrity.

**B. Timeline Requirements:** Field surveying, engineer design and bid letting will occur in 2011. Excavation will need to take place in winter months of 2012 to reduce construction cost. Native plant surveys and harvesting will take place in 2012 following spring thaw with seeding and planting occurring in early summer 2012. Monitoring will occur in the spring of 2012 and will continue through full open water season in 2013.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs:** Currently the drained lake beds of Crooked Lake and Hanford Lake, which cover over 1,400 acres, is intensely farmed via extensive drain tile systems. This proposed project will be the catalyst to future projects to recover the loss of standing water habitat. It is anticipated that this project will encourage adjacent landowners to enroll in the available wetland reserve programs to further enhance aquatic habitat. In return, the adjacent landowners may see a decrease in their crop loss due to a decrease in the probability of annual flooding.

## 2011-2013 Detailed Project Budget

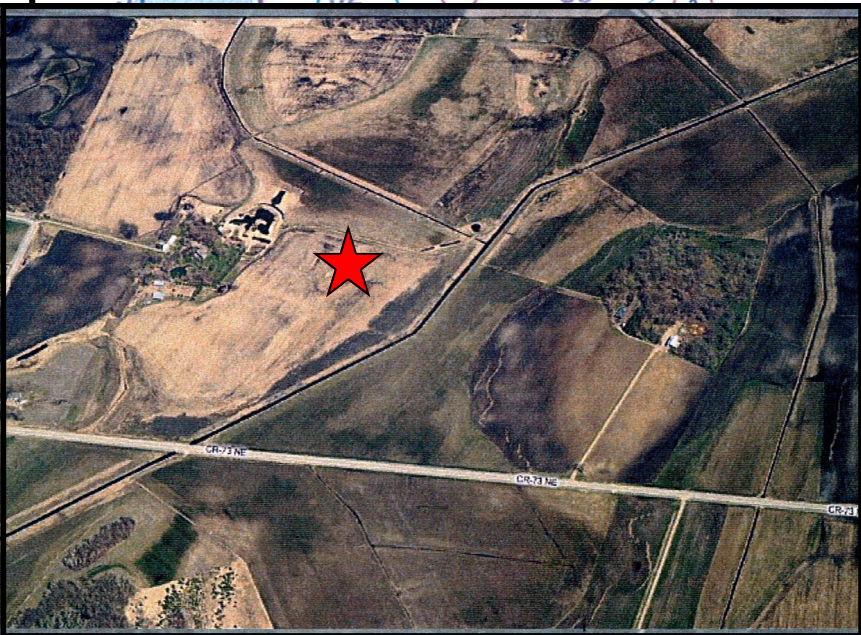
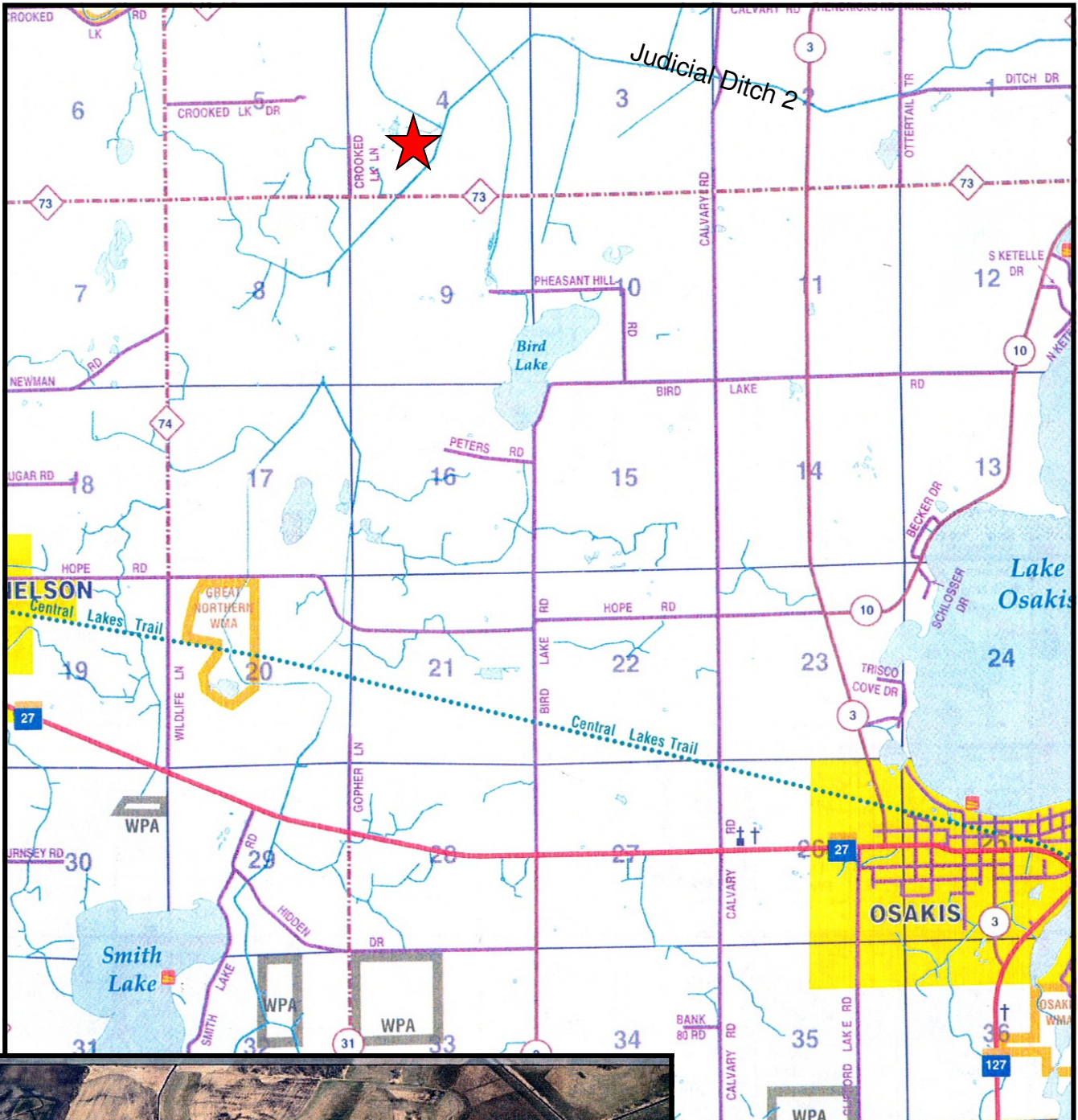
### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b>	
Env. Project Coord. (4% of 1 FTE (74% salary, 26%benefits) ) Temporary staff will be brought in to assist in workload	\$ 3,500
Monitoring Staff (5% of 2 FTE (74%salary, 26% benefits) for 2 monitoring seasons Volunteers will be brought in to assist in workload for 2012 & 2013 monitoring season	\$ 5,600
Env. Technician (7% of 1 FTE (74%salary, 26% benefits) Temporary staff will be brought in to assist in workload	\$ 3,500
<b>Contracts:</b>	
The SRWD will contract with a consultanting engineer to design the wetland system. The contracted engineer will also inspect project during construction and final inspection and assist in the generation of a long term maintenance plan.	\$ 45,000
The SRWD will contract with excavatiing contractor to complete the proposed excavation needed to establish the water retention area, establish wetland berm and final grading for a 200 acre wetland system.	\$ 450,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> VanDorn Sampler for collecting water samples.	\$ 400
<b>Travel:</b> Travel to site for plant survey, site inspections and monitoring. Travel cost would include SRWD staff time.	\$ 500
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Monitoring Lab cost for two monitoring seasons. Lab selected will be a MN Dept. of Health Certified Lab. Data will be made availabe to the general public on SRWD website and issued to stakeholders via a report.	\$ 3,500
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ 512,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> The SRWD is working with the Douglas County NRCS and SWCD to submit an application for the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed's Initiative through the USDA. Funds will be used to purchase a perpetual easement on the selected property.	\$ 425,000	<i>Pending- will know by July 1 2010</i>
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> SRWD will be applying this summer for additional monitoring dollars through the MPCA Clean Water Partnership program. Funding will also be pursued through MPCA for implementation funds for projects within the Osakis Lake Watershed.	\$ 150,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> Douglas County SWCD (\$2,800) for technical assistance in site design and assist in generating the conservation management plan. Douglas County Land Resource Management (\$1,500) to assist with the required NPDS permit and county permit, SRWD (\$1,800) to complete the NPDES permit and erosion control plan, Osakis Lake Association (\$3,000) to assist in harvesting and planting live stakes, Osakis Sportsmen's Club (\$5,400) to assist in harvesting and replanting live stakes, Alexandria Sportsmen's Club (\$2,000) to assist in planting and seeding native vegetation, Ducks Unlimited (\$2,000) to assist in seeding native vegetation, Friends of the Sauk River (\$5,000) to assist in plant survey for native plants plus harvesting, MNDNR (\$1,500) for technical assistance for habitat establishment.	\$ 25,000	Secured





Property is located T128N  
R36W Section 4 , SE1/4.

Project area is located on  
parcel #51-0037-100,  
approximately 200 acres along  
Judicial Ditch 2.

Red star indicates project area

## LCCMR Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

### Project Manager Qualifications & Responsibilities

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	Holly Kovarik
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	Administrator of the Sauk River Watershed District since December 2008
<b><u>Qualifications:</u></b>	<p>I have knowledge in the areas of public management and administration; budgeting and fiscal oversight; effective public communication; project programming; implementation and oversight; and water quality and environmental issues and programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous work history includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sauk River Watershed District Administrator 12/2008-Present</li> <li>• Pope Soil &amp; Water Conservation District Office Manager 3/2003-11/2008</li> <li>• Natural Resources Conservation Service WAE 2007-2008</li> <li>• Land O' Lakes Farmland Feed Staffing Coordinator 10/2000-2/2003</li> <li>• Douglas County Extension Service Summers 1999/2000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><u>Responsibilities for LCCMR proposal:</u></b>	My role for the LCCMR grant if awarded would be in the oversight and management of the funds. I have worked with other grant funds in the past in tracking the accounting and implementation of the projects or programs. I have developed the protocol and prepared the reports as necessary. I will work to coordinate the efforts of the project with partners, agencies, and consultants through this process. I will also serve as the liaison on the project between the board and staff. This process is also a responsibility outlined in the Administrator job description. I am required to complete this task.

### Organization Description

The Sauk River Watershed District was organized on July 22, 1986. It is the policy of the Sauk River Watershed District Board of Managers to protect the quality and manage the quantity of all surface waters, ground water within the District and to encourage land use practices that balance the necessary development with the protection of ground and surface water resources. It is also the policy of the SRWD Board of Managers that in order to successfully implement the goals, objectives, and actions for the Surface Water, Groundwater, and Land Resource Initiatives. The District must invest and support its citizens, Advisory Committee, and staff.

#### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Sauk River Watershed District is to apply our unique abilities and authorities in ways that protect and enhance our watershed's resources for today and tomorrow."

#### **Our Vision**

The vision of the SRWD is to protect and enhance our natural resources by increasing public awareness and involvement.

The District board and staff will expand programs and projects through technical and financial assistance and provide opportunities to support our partnerships and residents in achieving the desired water management goals and objectives.