

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2012-2013 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 064-D

Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase 7 Overall Summary - \$5,013,000 (8 Proposals) &

Topic Area: D. Land Acquisition & Restoration

Total Project Budget: \$ 50,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2013 - June 2015

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Protect and restore a connected network of critical habitat in the greater metropolitan area by acquiring fee title and conservation easements on 860 acres and restoring and enhancing 388 acres.

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Sponsoring Organization: Minnesota Land Trust

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Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Le Sueur, Nicollet, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Washington, Wright

City / Township:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL _____%



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2012-2013 Main Proposal

PROJECT TITLE: Metropolitan Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII Overall Summary

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Partnership accelerates protection and restoration of remaining high-quality natural lands in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area by strategically coordinating and focusing conservation efforts within a connected network of critical lands. This network stretches from the area’s urban core to its rural perimeter, including portions of 16 counties.

Our projects and activities take place within science-based corridors and are guided by the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, Minnesota’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, as well as numerous local and resource-specific plans. This project addresses several recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

- Protect priority land habitats
- Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes
- Restore land, wetlands, and wetland-associated watersheds
- Improve connectivity and access to outdoor recreation

Specifically, during this seventh phase of the MeCC Partnership, our focus will be on projects that build upon prior investments to enlarge habitat areas and create connections as well as projects that capitalize on urgent and unique opportunities. Our goal is to permanently protect 388 acres through fee title and conservation easement acquisition and to restore and/or enhance 860 acres of habitat. By achieving our goals, we expect the following outcomes:

- Strengthen and protect biodiversity in the region
- Protect and improve water quality of our region’s lakes, rivers, and streams
- Protect and enhance habitat for a vast variety of wildlife and rare plant species, including “species in greatest conservation need”

The MeCC Partnership maximizes dollars available for conservation by building upon past efforts and investments, leveraging other private and public resources, and engaging in strategic cooperation. The Partnership has an excellent track record. Since 2003, Metro Corridors partners have protected more than 10,000 acres and restored nearly 8,000 acres of priority lands in the greater Twin Cities metro area. We also have leveraged approximately \$2.69 of other funds for every dollar of ENRTF funding.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Partnership Coordination, Mapping, and Database Management **Budget:** \$50,000

The Minnesota Land Trust will provide coordination and leadership by convening and facilitating meetings, providing support to partners, compiling overall reports and accomplishments, and guiding strategic outreach and implementation efforts. DNR Management Information Services (MIS) staff will provide management of and updates to the GIS-based database developed to track MeCC projects as well as perform review and update of the corridor map and other mapping needs of the partnership.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Convene and facilitate quarterly meetings of the partnership to share information and coordinate work (MLT)	June 30, 2015

2. Compile and submit overall partnership reports twice yearly (MLT)	June 30, 2015
3. Conduct outreach to local communities and landowners	June 30, 2015
4. Maintain current records of accomplishments in the database (DNR)	June 30, 2015

Activity 2: Restore and Enhance Significant Habitat

Budget: \$793,000

Restoration and enhancement of critical prairie, forest, and other habitats or major landscape connections. All projects will be within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area and strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique and urgent opportunities. See individual proposals for additional details.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restore and/or enhance 388 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2015

Activity 3: Acquire Significant Habitat

Budget: \$4,170,000

Acquisition of fee title or conservation easements to protect critical habitats or major landscape connections within scientifically determined corridors in the greater metropolitan area. Projects will be strategically focused to build upon prior investments or take advantage of unique urgent opportunities. See individual proposals for additional details.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Protect 860 acres of critical habitat	June 30, 2015

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program - Acquisition
MN Land Trust	Protect Significant Habitat by Acquiring Conservation Easements
Friends of the Mississippi River	Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat & Acquire bluffland in Maplewood
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Priority Expansion & Restoration of MN Valley NW Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoring our Lands and Waters
DNR Fish and Wildlife	DNR Aquatic and Wildlife Management Area Acquisition
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database
DNR SNA Program	Not part of this funding request
Friends of the Minnesota Valley	No current request

B. Timeline Requirements

This project is proposed as two-years of the ongoing Metro Conservation Corridors program. We anticipate work being completed between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2015.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project advances the long-term strategy of the Metro Conservation Corridors, initiated in partnership with the LCCMR in 2003 to accelerate the protection and restoration of critical habitat in the greater Twin Cities metropolitan area. Progress towards this long-term strategy is ongoing, and MeCC will continue its work as long as urbanization and fragmentation continue to threaten critical habitat.

2013 Detailed Project Budget

MeCC Overall Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: Staff to manage and coordinate MeCC and manage mapping and database for 2 years. Other partner conservation staff salary and related benefits - please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 405,000
Contracts: Restoration, GIS, Professional Services - please see Overall Table B individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 394,750
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Restoration plant materials and supplies. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 181,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): Funds to purchase fee title and conservation easements and related transaction expenses. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 3,908,250
Travel: Mileage and related travel expenses in Minnesota.	\$ 11,500
Additional Budget Items: Easement stewardship, DNR NHIS database fees, land surveys, appraisals, signs, parking to ensure sites meet DNR minimum maintenance standards, volunteer event supplies, etc. Please see Overall Table B and individual budgets for additional detail.	\$ 112,500
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 5,013,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Various non-state sources	\$ 2,646,000	Pending and Secured
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Bonding and/or Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Funds	\$ 68,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Volunteer labor, Dakota County	\$ 66,000	Pending and Secured
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): MeCC 2010: \$222,292 remaining unspent. MeCC 2011: \$3,417,616 remaining unspent but the majority of this amount is committed to specific projects. Please see individual proposal budgets for additional detail.	\$ 1,689,665	Unspent but some of this amount is committed
Funding History: MeCC 2005: \$3,260,000; 2007: \$2,435,000; 2008: \$3,150,000; 2009: \$3,375,000; 2010: \$1,750,000; 2011: \$3,475,000	\$ 17,445,000	

Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII (2012-2013)		Date: 4/3/12	LCCMR Dollars Requested: \$		\$5,013,000							
Table A: Summary of Proposed Funding & Accomplishments												
Result / Activity	Partner	Proposed Project Funding				Proposed Accomplishments				Total Project Acres Completed (LCCMR & Other Funds combined)	Areas of Focus	
		LCCMR Funds		Other Funds		ENRTF		Other Funds				
		LCCMR Funds Requested	Other State Funding Proposed	Other Non-State Funding Proposed	Total Project Funds Proposed (LCCMR, Other State Funds & Non-State Funds combined)	LCCMR Acres/Miles Proposed	Other Funds Acres/Miles Proposed	ACRES	MILES			ACRES
1. Coordinate MeCC Program												
1.1. MeCC Partnership coordination, mapping, and outreach	Led by Minnesota Land Trust	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000						-	N/A
1.2. MeCC Mapping and database work	Led by DNR	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000						-	N/A
SUBTOTAL		\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	0	0.00	0	0.00		-	
2. Restore & Enhancement Significant Habitat												
2.1. Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$280,000		\$24,000	\$304,000	238					238	Restoration on DNR Lands: Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Grey Cloud Dunes SNA
2.2. Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project	Friends of MN Valley *	\$0			\$0						-	N/A
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$421,000	\$20,000	\$250,000	\$691,000	100	0.25	90	0.17		190	Anoka Sandplain, St. Croix Valley, Wild & Scenic Rivers
2.4. Scientific & Natural Area (SNA) restoration & enhancement	DNR - Ecological Resources **	\$0			\$0						-	N/A
2.5. Restore and enhance remnant oak savannas and native prairie on the Minnesota	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$0			\$0						-	N/A
2.6. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County	Dakota County	\$92,000		\$25,000	\$100,000	50					50	Vermilion River Corridor
SUBTOTAL		\$793,000	\$20,000	\$299,000	\$1,112,000	388	0.25	90	0.17		478	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat												
3.1. Critical land protection program	The Trust for Public Land	\$1,000,000		\$500,000	\$1,500,000	60	0.50	30	0.25		90	Savage Fen SNA additions, St. Croix/Franconia-Scandia
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements.	Minnesota Land Trust	\$750,000		\$300,000	\$1,050,000	250					250	Rum River, Mississippi Blufflands, Western Hennepin County
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.	\$1,000,000		\$500,000	\$1,500,000	250		125			375	Expansion of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3.4. Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood.	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$162,000		\$162,000	\$324,000	6		6			12	Mississippi River Bluff in Maplewood
3.5. DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition.	DNR - Fisheries & Wildlife	\$500,000	\$48,000		\$548,000	100					100	Vermilion River Corridor
3.6. Scientific & Natural Area (SNA) Acquisition	DNR - Ecological Resources **	\$0			\$0						-	N/A
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$758,000		\$885,000	\$1,643,000	194					194	Vermilion River Corridor
SUBTOTAL		\$4,170,000	\$48,000	\$2,347,000	\$6,565,000	860	0.50	161	0.25		1,021	
TOTAL		\$5,013,000	\$68,000	\$2,646,000	\$7,727,000	1248	0.75	251	0		2,042	
* Partner not submitting a funding request this phase												
** Partner submitting a separate request to LCCMR												
Minnesota Land Trust's proposed non-state funds represent estimated value of donated conservation easements.												

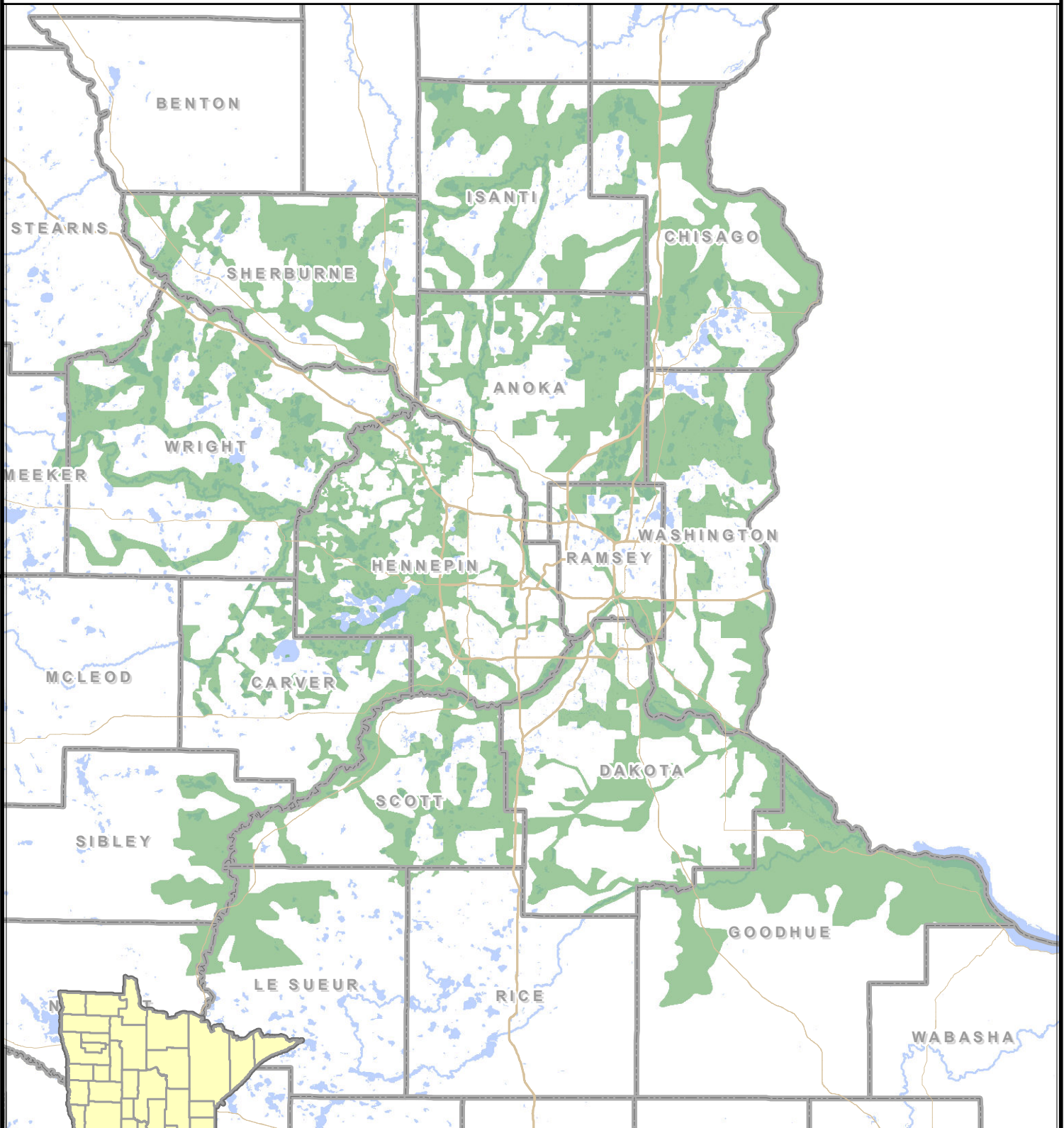
Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase VII
Table B: LCCMR Funding Request - Budget Detail

Date: 4/03/12
LCCMR Requested Dollars: \$5,013,000

Activity	Partners	LCCMR Funding Spent							Budget Explanation (staff/contractservices, development, equipment, other)	
		Personnel/ contract services	Equipment/ Tools/ Supplies	Travel	Acquisition		Additional Budget Items	Total		
					Fee	Easement				
1. Coordinate MeCC Program										
1.1. Coordination of MeCC program for two year project term	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 20,000							\$ 20,000	Staff to manage and coordinate the program for two years
1.2. MeCC database and mapping work	DNR MIS	\$ 30,000							\$ 30,000	Staff to manage mapping and database for two years
SUBTOTAL		\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
2. Restore & Enhance Significant Habitat										
2.1. Restore and enhance significant watershed habitat	Friends of the Mississippi River	\$ 272,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,500					\$ 280,000	Personnel/Contract Svs: Conservation director, bookkeeper, two ecologists, professional/technical vendors to provide restoration activities; Equipment/tools/supplies: gloves, fencing, posts, plant materials, native seeds, tress, shrubs, misc. supplies; Travel: vehicle mileage and travel expenses to/from sites.
2.3. Restoring our lands and waters	Great River Greening	\$ 279,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 7,000			\$ 10,000		\$ 421,000	Personnel/Contract Svs: 4.1 FTE overall and contracts with restoration vendors; Equipment/Tools/Supplies: site prep supplies including herbicides, equipment fuel, lubes, replacement parts, chainsaw safety supplies, seeds, plugs, plants, mulch, erosion control materials, herbivory protection; Travel: vehicle mileage to/from sites; Additional Budget Items: DNR NHIS database fees and volunteer event supplies.
2.6. Lakeshore and riparian restoration in Dakota County	Dakota County	\$ 42,000	\$ 50,000						\$ 92,000	Personell/Contract Svs: Contract services for landowner outreach and for developing and implementing natural resource management plans; Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Native grass and forb seeds, native trees and shrubs, and equipment use for installation.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 593,500	\$ 181,000	\$ 8,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000		\$ 793,000	
3. Acquire Significant Habitat										
3.1 Critical Land Protection Program	The Trust for Public Land					\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,000,000	Acquisition: Funds to purchase fee title or conservation easement on +/-60 acres of land and +/- 0.5 miles of shoreline which will then be transferred to a local, state, or federal agency for permanent stewardship, DNR acquisition costs, baseline report, management plan, and initial site development plan.
3.2. Protecting significant habitat by acquiring conservation easements	Minnesota Land Trust	\$ 140,000		\$ 3,000			\$ 517,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 750,000	Personnel/Contract Svs: staff expenses including salaries, eligible benefits and related costs for approximately 1 FTE for 2 years; Acquisition: purchase price of conservation easements and other acquisition expenses; Travel: mileage and related travel expenses; Additional Budget Items: conservation easement monitoring, management & enforcement fund, estimated at \$15,000 per easement.
3.3. Expand the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge	MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc.					\$ 1,000,000			\$ 1,000,000	Acquisition: Fee title acquisition of 250 acres to expand the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Land acquired will be donated to the US Fish & Wildlife Service.
3.4. Protect River Bluffland in Maplewood.	Friends of the Mississippi River					\$ 162,000			\$ 162,000	Acquisition Fee Title: 6 acres acquired in the Fish Creek Natural Area. The City of Maplewood will hold the title to the land.
3.5. DNR Fish & Wildlife Acquisition	DNR - Fisheries & Wildlife					\$ 487,500		\$ 12,500	\$ 500,000	Acquisition: Fee title acquisition of 100 acres to the State of Minnesota DNR (\$455,000), and indirect services (\$32,500: costs calculated at a rate of 6.5% for direct support services necessary to support this proposal); Additional Budget Items: Land survey, appraisal, title opinion, initial site development and related land transaction costs, based on a single parcel being acquired.
3.7. Dakota County lakeshore and riparian protection	Dakota County	\$ 16,250					\$ 741,750		\$ 758,000	Personell/Contract Svs: Contract services for landowner outreach; Acquisition: acquisition of 194 acres of conservation easements to be held by Dakota County.
SUBTOTAL		\$ 156,250	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,649,500	\$ 1,258,750	\$ 102,500		\$ 4,170,000	
TOTAL		\$ 799,750	\$ 181,000	\$ 11,500	\$ 2,649,500	\$ 1,258,750	\$ 112,500		\$ 5,013,000	

Metro Conservation Corridors

2012-2013 - PHASE VII



 Metro Conservation Corridors

 Counties

 Major Highways

 Lakes & Rivers

05/03/2012

For specific project locations, please see maps depicted in individual proposals.

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Minnesota Land Trust

Minnesota Land Trust Organizational Overview

The Minnesota Land Trust preserves Minnesota's natural and scenic heritage through public and private partnerships. A 501(c)(3) public charity, the Minnesota Land Trust has been working with landowners and local communities since 1991 through the following three strategies:

- **PROTECT:** Directly protecting land through conservation easements, land acquisition and effective land management.
- **ASSIST:** Providing agencies, communities and organizations with assistance in planning and delivering on-the-ground conservation in order to expand the State's overall capacity.
- **ENGAGE:** Helping to foster a culture of conservation, to support enhanced conservation legislation and funding, and to ensure the state has highly-skilled, trained professionals.

As a statewide land trust, the Minnesota Land Trust has created a regional structure to deliver its programs effectively at a local level, with offices in Duluth, Ely, Red Wing and St. Paul. The Land Trust was one of first land trusts in the country to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and has also been recognized by the Charities Review Council as meeting all of its standards.

The Minnesota Land Trust has provided leadership and coordination for the MeCC Partnership since 2009.

Project Partners

The Minnesota Land Trust is joined in this MeCC proposal by the following state and local government programs and non-profit partners:

Trust for Public Land	Critical Land Protection Program
Friends of the Mississippi River	Protect, Restore & Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat
MN Valley Nat. Wildlife Refuge Trust	Priority Expansion of MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Great River Greening	Restoring our Lands and Waters
DNR Fish and Wildlife	DNR Acquisition in the Metro/Urban Landscape
Dakota County	Lakeshore & Riparian Protection & Restoration
DNR Management Information Serv.	Partnership Mapping and Database

Project Manager Qualifications

The Minnesota Land Trust employs 13 staff, relies on the skills of nearly 100 dedicated volunteers, and is governed by an active Board of Directors.

Key Staff for MeCC Program

Sarah Strommen serves as the Associate Director for the Minnesota Land Trust. Sarah joined the Land Trust staff in October 2005 and is responsible for developing and implementing the Land Trust's programs in the metropolitan area and the counties to the west and north. Sarah has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Grinnell College and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Duke University.

Maggie Karschnia serves as the Land Protection Associate for the Minnesota Land Trust. Maggie joined the Land Trust in 2007 and assists with project development, preparing baseline property reports, and administrative support. Previously she worked for the Minnesota DNR with its SNA Program, restoring native prairie and woodland areas. She has a bachelor's degree in Conservation from the University of Wisconsin.