

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

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 130-G

Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement

Topic Area: G. Recreation

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,500,000

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

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 4,000

Summary:

Continue expansion and development of the Casey Jones Trail to enhance public access and education and to preserve, restore and enhance plant and wildlife communities on the trail corridor.

Name: Deb Nelson

Sponsoring Organization: City of Pipestone

Address: 119 2nd Avenue SW
Pipestone MN 56164

Telephone Number: (507) 825-3324

Email: dnelson@cityofpipestone.com

Web Address: www.progressivepipestone.com

Location

Region: SW

County Name: Murray, Pipestone

City / Township: Pipestone, Gray Township; Woodstock, Burke Township; Lake Wilson, Chanarambie Tow

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



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

PROJECT TITLE: Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement

1. Project Statement

The Casey Jones State Trail was one of the first designated state trails in the State of Minnesota. We are requesting LCCMR funding to continue the development of the next seven miles of the trail from the existing paved trail at the County Road 16 blacktop through Woodstock to the Murray County Line in order to provide access to the uniqueness of the natural resources on and surrounding the trail; to provide a tool to be used for environmental education and nature study; to continue land acquisition of key parcels along the trail; restore and preserve plant communities along the trail; and rehabilitate the first three miles of the trail located in Pipestone.

Less than 1% of original tall grass prairie remains in Minnesota due to extensive agriculture. There are approximately 60 acres of linear prairie remnants in existence along the trail between Pipestone and Woodstock. They have persisted due to their location in the trail right-of-way and the occasional prescribed burns. It is crucial to these habitats to continue development of the trail to preserve the remaining prairie grass remnants that still exist.

Our overall goals are trail development for capitalizing on the uniqueness of the natural resources on and surrounding the trail; environmental education; protect rare and endangered species; prevent further fragmentation or disturbance of significant plant communities; and educate users about the plant and wildlife communities on and adjacent to the trail corridor.

The trail will serve people of all ages whether individual trail users or groups from local Southwest Minnesota communities to visitors from outlying communities. By continuing development of the next seven miles of the trail, our goals will be achieved by educating users via access to the natural plant and wildlife communities and unique natural resources on the trail. Interpretive site areas would include signature features on the trail that consist of the tall prairie grass areas, bottomland floodplains, the Upland Coteau and Buffalo Ridge. Interpretive signage would be placed in each City with detailed information/maps of the trail and the plants and wildlife that would be seen on and adjacent to the trail corridor. Development of the Casey Jones Trail will enable continued preservation and restoration of our dwindling vegetation and wildlife along present and future extensions of the trail.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Development

Budget: \$1,300,000

Hire a contractor to develop and pave the next seven miles of the existing rail bed from County Road 16 through Woodstock to the Murray County line.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Provide access for educating the public on the unique natural resources and native plant and wildlife communities on the trail.	June 2015

Activity 2: Preservation, Restoration and Rehabilitation

Budget: \$30,000

Hire a local restoration team to prep and install seven miles of remnant prairie grasses and wildflowers. Utilizing the local restoration team or DNR, rehabilitate the trail beginning in Pipestone to kill the brome grass and make this portion of the trail smoother for horse riders. A three year maintenance agreement would be included in this cost to assure establishment of the plant communities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Restore and preserve the prairie grasses on the trail corridor.	June 2015
2. Rehabilitate the first three miles of the trail beginning in Pipestone to make it smoother for horse riders.	June 2015

Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement

Activity 3: Interpretive Signage

Budget: \$5,000

Interpretive signs will be placed in Pipestone and Woodstock with graphics and detailed information/maps of the trail and the plant and wildlife communities to be seen on the trail. Place an interpretive sign 4-6 miles east of Pipestone along the trail with information on Gray Siding/Eton (siding/small town) that was used by traveling farmers and teachers.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. To be used as a tool to educate users of the plant and wildlife communities on and adjacent to the trail corridor.	June 2015
2. To be used as a tool to educate users of the history of the rail bed and surrounding areas.	June 2015

Activity 4: Land Acquisition for Designation of the Trail Corridor

Budget: \$165,000

Known parcels are listed on the Proposed Acquisition List. A total of 19 acres will need to be acquired to fill gaps from Woodstock to Lake Wilson. A portion of the money will be used to remove a Quonset shed which sits directly in the path of the trail (on Kruisselbrink property - Woodstock). Remaining funds will be used for time sensitive strategic land acquisition.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. To fill gaps along the trail corridor.	June 2015
2. Remove Quonset shed that sits directly in the path of the trail.	June 2015

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

1. DNR will be the fiscal agent and oversee the entire project.
2. Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association will contribute \$3,000 towards the project.
3. Pipestone County Pheasants forever will contribute \$1,000 to the project.
4. Pipestone County Historical Society will donate in-kind service of researching historical information for interpretive signage.

B. Timeline Requirements

We anticipate completion of the development, installation of interpretive signage and preservation, restoration and rehabilitation portions of the project to be complete by June 2015. This will give contractors needed time for the winter season and rain delays. Acquisition efforts are ongoing.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

All phases of the project including acquisition, development, preservation and restoration of the Casey Jones State Trail are an ongoing, longer-term project that will require additional investments over time. The trail corridor will run from Pipestone to Lake Shetek State Park. The Friends have been able to get matching funds from state bonding money and county contributions. In 2005, a \$1.2m LCMR grant was received which has enabled the DNR to replace three bridges and pave the first five miles of the trail beginning at the trail head in Pipestone. We continue to request bonding dollars through state bonding bills, through county contributions and we are actively seeking a 501c3 status to be able to receive tax-deductible donations to be used as a match for state and federal funds. We will continue to seek funding to accomplish completion of the trail which would be used for land acquisition to fill trail gaps and to continue development of the trail in order to connect communities, preserve and restore plant and wildlife communities and to provide an educational tool to highlight the natural resources on and surrounding the trail corridor.

2012-2013 Proposed Acquisition List

Project Title: Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement

Project Manager Name: Deb Nelson

Environment and Natural Resources Trust \$ Requested: \$1,500,000

#	Parcel Name	Acquisition Type (Fee Title or Conservation Easement)	County	Ecological Significance	Proposed # of Acres	Proposed # of Shoreline Miles (if applicable)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)
1	Kruisselbrink Property	Fee Title	Pipestone	Prairie	0.82	N/A	DNR
2	Schut Property	Fee Title	Murray	Prairie	6	N/A	DNR
3	Sabin Property	Fee Title	Murray	Prairie	6	N/A	DNR
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

The .82 acre Kruisselbrink property (located inside city limits of Woodstock) includes a 40' x 100' Quonset shed that will need to be removed once the property is purchased as it sits directly in the path of the trail corridor. A portion of the acquisition dollars includes removal of the shed. The Schut property will be purchased to aid in filling the three mile gap in Murray County. The Sabin property is also located in Murray County. The exact parcel number of this property is not known yet as we are waiting to negotiate with the property owner. A portion of the acquisition dollar request includes other time sensitive strategic land acquisition as well.

2012-2013 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement

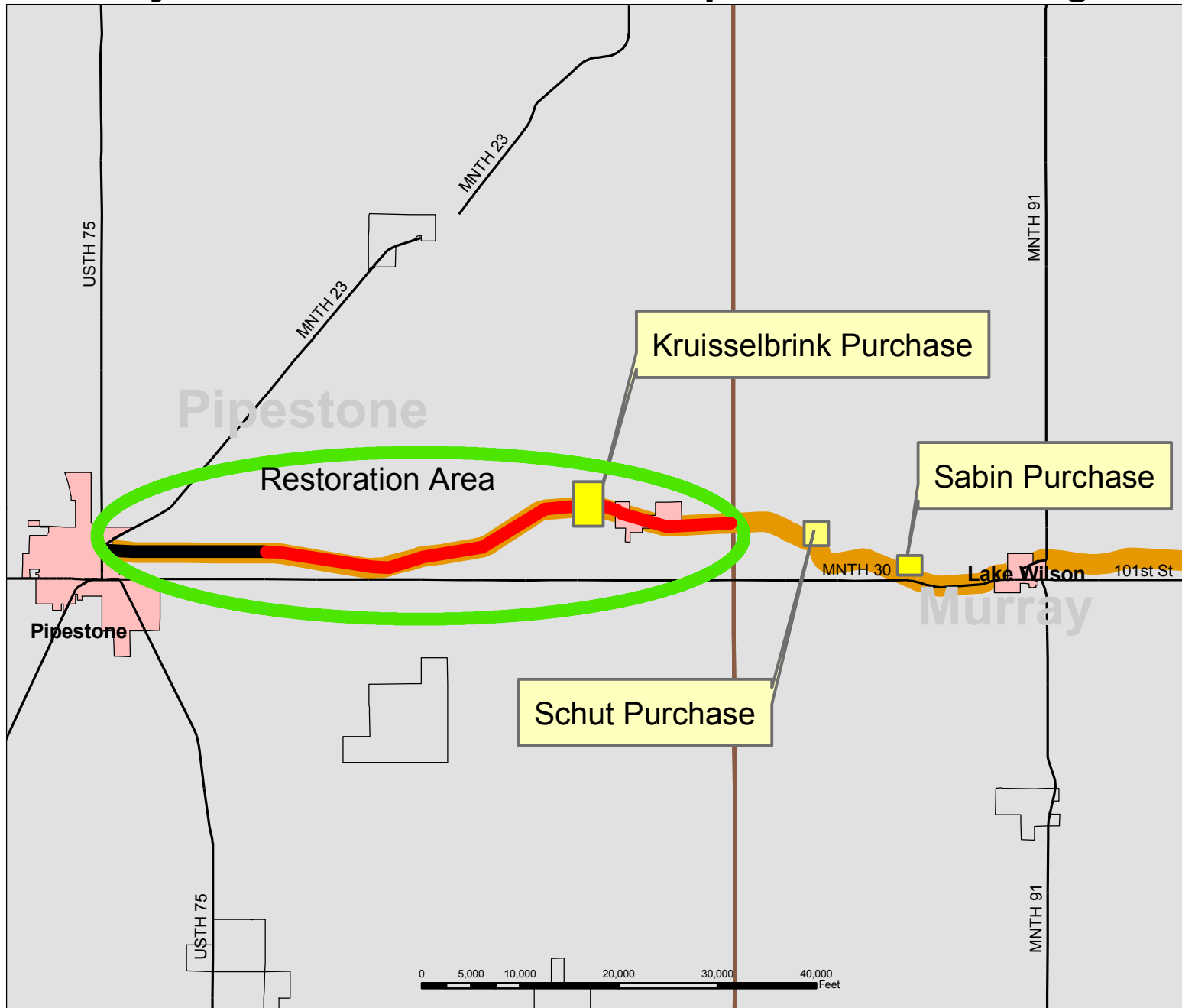
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: Two (2) Years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Contracts: Road Construction Contractor - grade and pave seven miles of trail.	\$1,300,000
Contracts (con't): Prairie Restoration - rehabilitate, prep and install prairie grasses and wildflowers.	\$30,000
.	\$5,000
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): 19 acres - DNR will be title holder.	\$165,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$1,500,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association	\$3,000	Secured
Pipestone County Pheasant's Forever	\$1,000	Secured
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: 2012 Bonding Bill	\$2,000,000	Pending
In-kind Services During Project Period: Pipestone County Historical Society - research	\$1,000	Secured
In kind service - 10% of time - Deb Nelson, Assistant to the City Administrator, as Project Manager	\$4,500	Secured
Funding History: 2005 LCMR Grant	\$1,200,000	N/A

Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement



Legend

- Casey Jones Trail
- County
- Paved
- To Be Paved
- Restoration Area



Casey Jones State Trail Development and Ecological Enhancement

Project Manager Qualifications

As Assistant to the City Administrator, I assist the City Administrator/City Attorney with the day to day operations of the City. These activities include interpretation and enforcement of the City code book including analyzing, researching and writing information on City policy, codes, and other projects. I am a very thorough and detail oriented individual with the ability to work well with others. I am accustomed to making sure the City complies with a myriad of state and local rules and regulations and I have excellent organizational, planning and analysis skills.

Organization Description

The City of Pipestone is located in Southwest Minnesota with a population of 4,280. Goals of the City include promoting growth of the community by increasing population, strengthening the economic base, maintaining and improving the infrastructure, promoting and encouraging tourism to its potential, providing adequate open space and recreation activities, preserving the heritage and historical character, working diligently with other governmental units and citizens and preserving the environment through environmental awareness.

