

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 220-F**

Stony Creek Stream and Habitat Restoration Project

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**Category:** F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 1,750,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2021 (2 yrs)

**Summary:**

Over 4.5 miles of Stony Creek restoration, improving water quality to State standards and providing 100 acres of permanently protected expanded riparian habitat along this prairie stream in northwest Minnesota.

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**Name:** Bruce Albright

**Sponsoring Organization:** Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

**Title:** Administrator

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** PO Box 341

Barnesville MN 56514

**Telephone Number:** (218) 354-7710

**Email** balbright@brrwd.org

**Web Address** www.brrwd.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Northwest

**County Name:** Clay

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Stream restoration before and after and reach location map

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%
_____ If under \$200,000, waive presentation?			



**PROJECT TITLE: STONY CREEK STREAM AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

Straightened in 1915 and 1916, Stony Creek became Clay County Ditch No. 31. The construction of the public drainage ditch and the channel straightening effort eliminated acres of quality stream habitat with the goal of improving farmland drainage. The Stony Creek Stream and Habitat Restoration Project restores and permanently protects this stream reach. Stony Creek and downstream waterways are impaired for sediment (turbidity). It is in the project reach that Stony Creek goes from meeting State water quality standards to not meeting them. Stony Creek sediment loadings come mainly from two sources: 1. severe bank erosion and 2. breakout flows causing field erosion and carrying significant volumes of sediment downstream. During 2 inch and larger rainfall events, breakout flows occur and severe scouring and gulying results.

The Stony Creek Stream and Habitat Restoration project provides these public benefits and will:

- Improve and expand riparian prairie stream habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife,
- Alleviate overland flooding and erosion, and
- Improve water quality
  - The restored stream channel and sediment BMPs will allow for a more stable stream channel reducing instream bank failures and reduced sediment loading.
  - The restored reach is expected to meet State water quality standards after the project is complete.

The Project involves:

- Restoring 4.5+ miles of Stony Creek to a natural meandering prairie stream
- Restoration and Expansion of 100-acre permanently protected habitat corridor (average 300+ feet wide)
  - 47 acres riparian wetland and
  - 53 acres upland prairie
- Removal of ditch spoilbanks back away from the channel to provide the stream access to its restored floodplain, and
- Installation of sediment best management practices (BMPs) along the restored stream.

Landowners are ready to implement the project. The BRRWD is the ditch authority for County Ditch No. 31.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** *Restoration (construction) of Stony Creek using natural channel design. Native wetland and prairie vegetation will be seeded and established. Pollinator mixes will be used to encourage and protect bio-diversity. Installation of sediment BMPs along Stony Creek to reduce sediment loading to the restored stream and habitat corridor.*

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,750,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. 4.5+ miles of natural stream restoration of with natural floodplain with prairie wetland habitat. Bioengineered bank protection principles will be used.	Dec. 31, 2020
2. Restoration of 47 acres of wetland habitat	Dec. 31, 2020
3. Restoration of 53 acres of native prairie habitat.	Dec. 31, 2020
4. 12 or more sediment control Best management practices installed along the restored reach of Stony Creek to limit sediment loading to the restored stream channel.	Dec. 31, 2020



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
2019 Main Proposal Template**

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding: NONE**

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Clay Soil and Water Conservation District			Land Acquisition and project marketing CREP

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District will develop a habitat management plan and will establish the project in accordance with MN Statutes 103D Watershed Law. Part of this establishment will include the development of the local tax levy for the project that will pay for future project maintenance and management.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

The Buffalo Red River Watershed District will complete the ENRTF project between July 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020.

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title: STONY CREEK STREAM AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	N/A
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> The BRRWD will continue to use a competitive best value selection . Previously, the BRRWD through competitive selection contracted with Houston Engineering who has been providing engineering and environmental services for the BRRWD and also completed the preliminary design plans for this project.	\$ 250,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	N/A
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	N/A
<b>Travel:</b>	N/A
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> 4.5 mile Stream Restoration Construction/Enhancement work including the installation of sediment BMPs (est. 12 side inlets) along the restored stream, 250,000+ cubic yards of restoration earthwork, 4.5 miles of bioengineered bank protection, 100 acres of native vegetation seeding and establishment.	\$ 1,500,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 1,750,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is not applicable.)*

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> CREP (~70% Federal) for permanent conservation easements.	\$ 245,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> CREP (~30% State) for permanent conservation easements.	\$ 105,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	N/A	
<b>Other Funding History:</b> Survey and preliminary design work has been completed.	\$ 100,000	<i>Secured</i>

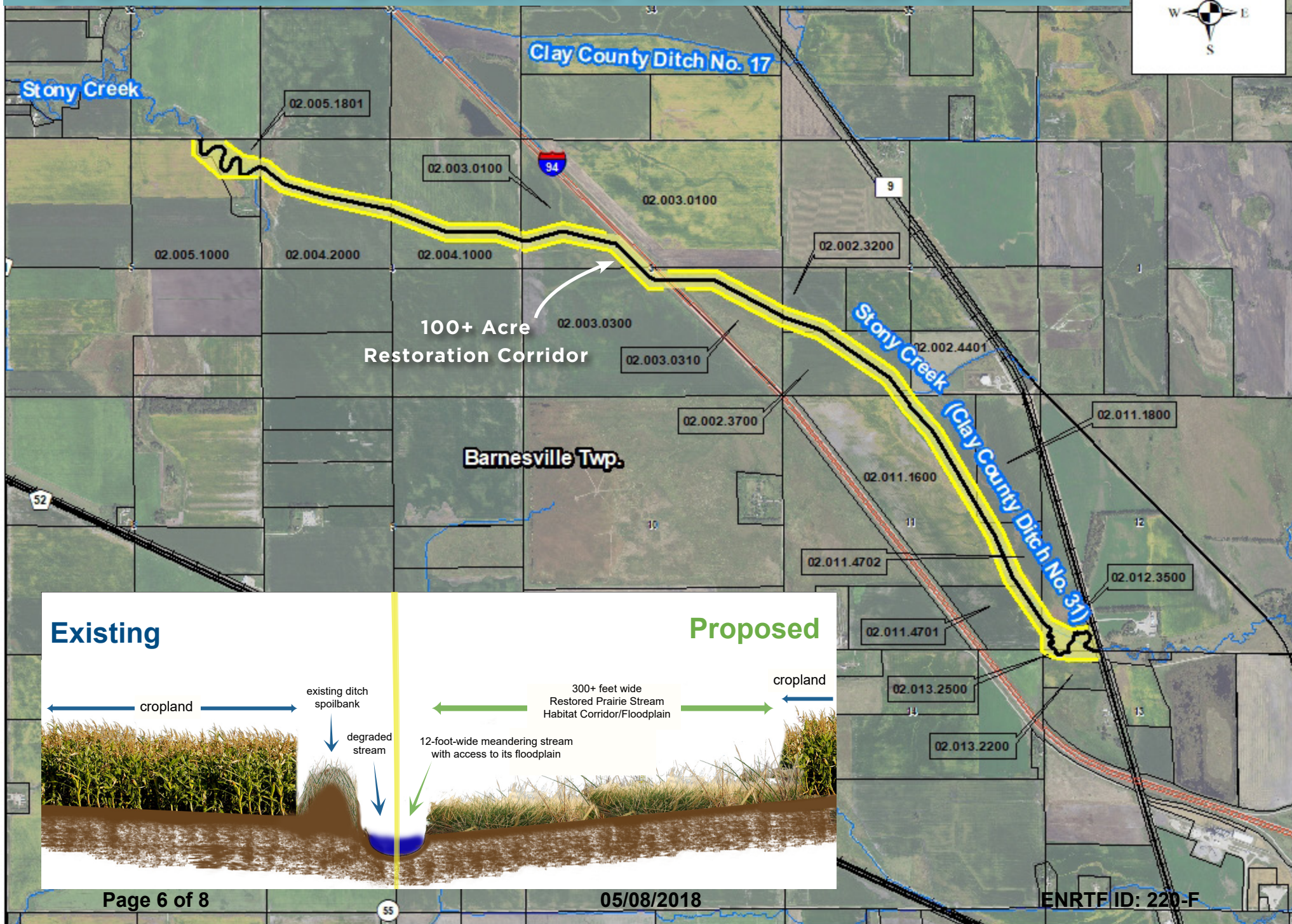
Attachment C:  
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
M.L. 2019 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet  
Project Title: STONY CREEK STREAM AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT  
Legal Citation:  
Project Manager: Bruce Albright  
Organization: Buffalo-Red River Watershed District  
College/Department/Division:  
M.L. 2019 ENRTF Appropriation:  
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 Years, Completion target 12/31/2020 (Grant complete by 6/30/2021)  
Today's Date: 4/11/2018



#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	020051801	46° 43' 0.23" N	96° 30' 26.01" W	\$ 186,966	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	10.7	0.5	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
2	020042000	46° 42' 51.78" N	96° 29' 58.49" W	\$ 205,662	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	11.8	0.55	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
3	020041000	46° 42' 44.16" N	96° 29' 19.80" W	\$ 198,184	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	11.3	0.53	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
4	020030100	46° 42' 44.61" N	96° 28' 47.57" W	\$ 194,444	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	11.1	0.52	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
5	020030300	46° 42' 36.39" N	96° 28' 24.91" W	\$ 22,436	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	1.3	0.06	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
6	020030310	46° 42' 32.37" N	96° 27' 59.20" W	\$ 172,009	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	9.8	0.46	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
7	020023200	46° 42' 25.82" N	96° 27' 37.90" W	\$ 63,568	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	3.6	0.17	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
8	020023700	46° 42' 17.96" N	96° 27' 20.28" W	\$ 138,355	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	7.9	0.37	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
9	020024401	46° 42' 11.62" N	96° 27' 10.02" W	\$ 7,479	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	0.4	0.02	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
10	020111600	46° 41' 54.58" N	96° 26' 53.14" W	\$ 295,406	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	13.9	0.79	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
11	020111800	46° 41' 48.94" N	96° 26' 48.03" W	\$ 29,915	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	1.7	0.08	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
12	020114701	46° 41' 27.16" N	96° 26' 30.44" W	\$ 59,829	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	1.7	0.16	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
13	020114702	46° 41' 32.44" N	96° 26' 35.52" W	\$ 164,530	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	4.7	0.44	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
14	020123500	46° 41' 21.16" N	96° 26' 18.82" W	\$ 134,615	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	7.7	0.36	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
15	020132500	46° 41' 18.43" N	96° 26' 23.24" W	\$ 41,132	N/A	Clay	Prairie Stream/Riparian wetland restoration corridor	Stream Habitat restoration	2.4	0.11	Private	BRRWD/State of MN	
NOTES: Part of Parcel 20111600 and all of Parcels 20114701 and 20114702 have shore on only one side of stream.													



# STONY CREEK STREAM AND HABITAT RESTORATION



## **Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration**

### **Fee Title Acquisition**

1. No Fee Title Acquisition planned with ENRTF dollars.

### **Conservation Easement Acquisition**

1. No Fee Conservation Easement Acquisition planned with ENRTF dollars.

### **Restoration**

1. All restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.
2. The project proposes to restore Clay County Ditch No. 31/Stony Creek to a natural prairie stream within a stream habitat corridor. This restoration work would be completed with input from the MN Department of Natural Resources Stream Habitat Staff in Fergus Falls. The project is expected to restore more than 4.5 miles of prairie stream and increase the riparian habitat corridor by 100 acres. The project restoration plans would be kept on file in the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) office and would be reviewed periodically to modify project management activities to maximize natural resource benefits. The BRRWD has a Project Team that reviews project plans under development and during project management. The Project Team is a mix of landowners, State and federal agency natural resources staff, and local non-governmental organization staff (e.g. Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy).
3. Similar to previous efforts of the BRRWD, restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement. On previous projects the BRRWD has worked with both Dan Shaw (BWSR Vegetation Specialist/Senior Ecologist) and other BWSR staff to develop restoration plans for projects. The BRRWD would review the project vegetation restoration plan with BWSR prior to implementation to maximize the results of the restoration.
4. The long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcels being restored with ENRTF funds will be met and financed into the future through the establishment of a local tax levy to support these efforts. The BRRWD will establish this project under MN Statutes 103D Watershed Law and will set up a permanent funding mechanism for funding future project maintenance. The BRRWD has taxing authority and has used these methods on several previous projects.
5. The BRRWD will discuss the project with Conservation Corps of Minnesota to see what services they might provide for project restoration activities.
6. Evaluations will be completed on parcels where project activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations will analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.





**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**2019 Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**  
**Project Title: Stony Creek Stream and Habitat Restoration Project**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Stony Creek Stream and Habitat Restoration Project

**I. PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS**

Bruce Albright has served as the Administrator for the BRRWD for more than 35 years. He supports the Board of Managers and manages the District's daily operations, budget, outreach efforts, and partnerships with other government agencies, nonprofits, consultants, and the public. During his time with the BRRWD, Bruce has successfully led multiple wildlife, river, and habitat restoration projects, such as the award-winning Manston Slough Restoration project, which was completed in 2014. The Manston Slough Restoration project resembles the Stony Creek Restoration project in that both bring multiple partners into a coordinated and collaborative effort to improve upon natural resources in the State of Minnesota. The Manston Slough Restoration Project was a multi-year project that required working closely with the Minnesota DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service, who have significant land ownership within the project's boundaries, as well as the signing of 33 private landowner permanent easement agreements. His ability to work with both government agencies and these landowners was key. The Manston Slough Restoration won the *2015 Partnership of the Year* and the *Natural Resources* awards at the Environmental Initiative Awards and is proof of Bruce's ability to coordinate a project of this scale and complexity.

Bruce also brings with him a strong support staff of resource professionals and engineers to assist him in the coordination of the stream corridor restoration construction. With LCCMR Funding, the Stony Creek project would become the project priority for Bruce, the BRRWD Board of Managers, and the District Engineer Erik Jones. Bruce often works with Erik Jones and his staff to ensure that work is completed on a timely basis. Bruce's honesty and fairness have earned him the respect of landowners, government staff at every level, and other conservation professionals.

**II. ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION**

The BRRWD, located in northwest Minnesota, covers an area of 1,785 square miles over parts of Clay, Wilkin, and Otter Tail counties. All or parts of three major watersheds are located within the legal boundary of the BRRWD: the Buffalo River, the upper Red River, and the Otter Tail River downstream from Orwell Dam. Wolverton Creek is a major tributary located within the Buffalo River watershed. The Board of Managers are responsible for guiding the direction of the BRRWD and are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. There are three managers from Clay County, two managers from Wilkin County, and one manager each from Otter Tail and Becker counties. The Mission Statement for the BRRWD as described in the BRRWD Watershed Management Plan is as follows: "The mission of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) is to alleviate flooding and to manage the water resources of the District in a manner that best protects this valuable resource." In addition, the BRRWD is the drainage authority for all Clay County Ditches in their jurisdiction.