



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-020

Proposal Title: Sleepy Eye Lake Reclamation

Project Manager Information

Name: Bob Elston

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Office Telephone: (507) 794-3731

Email: belston@sleepyeye-mn.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project is proposed to reduce siltation and sedimentation entering and building up in the east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake.

Funds Requested: \$120,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2020-06-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat (F)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): SW

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): SW

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

There is significant evidence that the east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake is filling in with sediment and silt reducing the arm's ability to further filter silt and sediment from runoff water before it enters the main body of Sleepy Eye Lake. Ninety percent of the runoff water entering Sleepy Eye Lake flows through the east arm of the lake. A portion of that water entering the northerly portion of the east arm comes in through Brown County Ditch 45. The other runoff enters the southerly portion of east arm through the City of Sleepy Eye's storm water system which drains the north half of the City. The water depth in the east arm has dropped from 6 feet deep 30 years ago to 1 foot or less today. The shoreline of the east arm is creeping toward the center of the east arm from each side.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? i.e. What are you seeking funding to do? You will be asked to expand on this in Activities and Milestones.

The east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake serves a vital function in protecting the main body of the lake from siltation and sedimentation. Because almost all runoff water flows through the east arm, this body of water serves as a settling area for this water to drop the silt and sediment it carries in the east arm before it enters into the main body of Sleepy Eye Lake. A two phased reclamation is proposed. Phase one would address County Ditch 45's on the north end of the east arm by constructing a holding pond of one acre that the ditch would flow into allowing all the silt and sediment it carries to settle out before the water enters the east arm. This effort would require 2 acres of land acquisition. Phase two would impact the southerly portion of the east arm by drawing down the water in the late fall and allowing the silt and sediment to settle, and then during drawdown,going into the arm with caterpillars in the depth of winter to remove as much built up silt and sediment as possible. That removed silt and sediment would then be hauled away.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

These two phases of action would significantly improve the ability of the east arm to filter and settle out the runoff water entering the east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake and in turn, clean up the water flowing from the arm into the main body of Sleepy Eye Lake.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Phase 1 - Build a one acre holding pond on north end of the east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake,

Activity Budget: \$43,500

Activity Description:

After land purchase in parcel 150.020.004.10.120, using caterpillars, a one acre holding pond would be dug at the north end of the east arm. This pond would have a 5 foot depth to hold and settle out the runoff from Brown County Ditch 45. Appropriate culverts would need to be installed to ensure proper flowage of this runoff water and in turn to allow the settled out water to flow into the east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Phase 2 runoff reduction of silt, plant matter and sediment entering Sleepy Eye Lake	2020-02-28
The end result -phase 1 and phase 2 - cleaner water entering the Lake.	2020-03-31

Activity 2: Draw down the southerly portion of the east arm in late fall. Mid winter excavate 1 acre.

Activity Budget: \$62,500

Activity Description:

Phase 2 - In late fall a large pump would be placed in the east arm and water would be pumped out allowing the bottom to settle out and freeze. Mid winter either an excavator or a caterpillar would be brought in and 1 acre of the southerly portion of the east arm would be cleaned out down to a depth of 5 feet. All the silt and sediment would then be hauled away.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
after drawdown and excavation, arm water capacity increases water has time to settle out	2020-03-31

Activity 3: Purchase a 2 acre piece of parcel 150.020.004.10.120 for construction of a holding pond.

Activity Budget: \$14,000

Activity Description:

Purchase land by contacting owner and working out the details.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Purchase of the 2 acre site will provide the area needed of holding pond.	2020-06-30

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

The City of Sleepy Eye along with assistance from the local Sportsmen Club will address future needs in the lake. Sleepy Eye Lake has been dredged three times with funding primarily by the City. In addition the City has installed an aeration system in the Lake, installed riprap where needed and built and maintained campgrounds all to enhance the lake for the enjoyment of many folks in the area.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Bob Elston

Job Title: City Manager

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Mr. Bob Elston is highly qualified to oversee this project. He serves as Sleepy Eye's City Manager, a position he has held for about a year. Prior to that, he served as Sleepy Eye's Superintendent of Public Works for the past 14 years. In that capacity he managed the public utilities department, the street department, water department, parks department, and the sewer department. He is familiar with earth moving equipment having operated everything from loaders to road graders.

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Organization Description:

The City of Sleepy Eye is a community of 3,599 folks and is located in south central Minnesota.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
City Manager		Sleepy Eye Lake Reclamation Supervision			1,209%	57		\$4,000
							Sub Total	\$4,000
Contracts and Services								
Bolton and Menk	Sub award	Surveying, engineering work related to project				-		\$6,000
							Sub Total	\$6,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Engineering, surveying, excavation, restoration,	This company would perform the earth work, water pumping and restoration					\$96,000
							Sub Total	\$96,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 2 Parcels: 1						\$14,000
							Sub Total	\$14,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$120,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
				-	-	-			
Totals				0	0	-			

Fee Acquisition

1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.

The selection process involved examining the best location for the holding pond near the entrance of Brown County Ditch 45. This land surrounds the entrance of the ditch to the east arm of the lake so it is the most practical and logical.

2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.

There are none available that we know of.

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.

After the holding pond is constructed and the ground is ready, native prairie grass and blooming plants will be seeded into the land surrounding the holding pond. The holding pond will be built on the secured two acre parcel with the pond about one acre in size.

4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.

The City of Sleepy Eye would retain ownership for ease of cleaning out the holding pond in the future.

5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

When the pond construction is completed, the plan is to sow native prairie grass around the perimeter of the pond providing wildlife habitat as well as preventing erosion.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

Providing the pond will give runoff entering the east arm of the lake an opportunity to settle out in the holding pond before that water then flows into the east arm. The pond construction will be such that it will allow for easy cleanout using an excavator in the future., evidence that the holding pond is working effectively. Protecting the ground surrounding the pond with native prairie grass planting will provide wildlife habitat as well as prevent erosion.

3. Describe how 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.

The restoration efforts will utilize a plan developed in conjunction with the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation Board.

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

With the City of Sleepy Eye owning the property, there will a link that will keep an interest in maintenance of the restoration as well as the financial ability to fund maintenance efforts as needed.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

Offers will be extended to that organization to have them join in the restoration activities.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should 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.

The City Manager along with the assistance of the Park Board and Lake Improvement Committee of the City of Sleepy Eye will have joint responsibility for overseeing this restoration and future maintenance of these efforts and the land.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [ee1ee2c8-12c.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The first item is the Sleepy Eye Council resolution supporting the lake project. The second item is a photo showing the east arm of Sleepy Eye Lake, however as the picture is displayed, North lies to the right. The third item is a map of the City of Sleepy Eye. This map also shows Sleepy Eye Lake and a portion of the east arm of the lake to the north of the City. The fourth item is a resolution from Brown County supporting the action proposed.

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration, Fee Acquisition,

Does your project have patent, royalties, or revenue potential?

No

Does your project include research?

Yes

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes

Resolution No. 2020-07
Brown County Resolution
Supporting Improvement of Sleepy Eye Lake

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Simonsen and moved for adoption at a Regular Meeting held on March 24, 2020 at the Brown County Courthouse, New Ulm, MN:

WHEREAS, the Sleepy Eye City Council wishes to maintain and improve the quality of Sleepy Eye Lake now and in the future, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Sleepy Eye recognizes the value that the Lake brings to the community;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Brown County wish to support the efforts of the Sleepy Eye City Council to maintain and improve the quality of Sleepy Eye Lake.

Seconded by Commissioner Berg and the same being put to a vote was duly carried.
This Resolution shall become effective immediately and without publication.

Adopted by the following vote: Ayes 5 Naves 0.
Dated this 24th day of March, 2020.



Chairman, Brown County

ATTEST: 

Administrator, Brown County

CERTIFICATION

State of Minnesota
County of Brown

I, Sam Hansen, duly appointed, qualified and acting County Administrator for the County of Brown, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a Resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Brown County, Minnesota, at their session held on the 24th day of March, 2020, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at New Ulm, Minnesota, this 24th day of March, 2020.



County Administrator

