



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2021 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2021-406

Proposal Title: Chippewa County Acquisition, Recreation and Education

Project Manager Information

Name: Scott Williams

Organization: Chippewa County

Office Telephone: (320) 226-2653

Email: swilliams@co.chippewa.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Chippewa County will acquire 51 acres of riverine wetland/floodplain forest complex, floodplain and abandoned gravel pits along the MN River southwest of Montevideo.

Funds Requested: \$160,000

Proposed Project Completion: 2023-06-30

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Land Acquisition for Habitat and Recreation (G)

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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

The 51 acres to be acquired, plus the adjacent 45 acres of tax forfeited land, provide benefits to numerous native species of fish and wildlife, including nesting, spawning, and feeding, resting, and winter cover. Public ownership of these two parcels would allow for active management of the habitats through partnerships with the MN DNR and the US FWS. Habitat segmentation due to historical diking and abandoned roadways could be mitigated. Future management activities that restore more natural connectivity between wetlands and the Minnesota River will be accomplished

Both parcels provide water quality benefits to the Minnesota River by filtering water that flows through them. As cumulative impacts of upstream drainage continue to impact water quality in the Minnesota River, any amount of riverine wetlands that can be restored or protected will have cumulative

Lastly, educational opportunities on or adjacent to the MN River are not plentiful. This project will allow greater access to the MN River system by providing public space to meet, enjoy and learn.

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.

This property also provides an important function of water filtration of upland runoff before it flows into the river. Preservation of these filter lands are crucial to improving water quality on the MN River. A management plan will be developed considering the natural benefits of the area and to identify additional practices that could be implemented in the future.

Both of the properties to be acquired became available from willing sellers in an effort to continue the conservation practices currently on their land. Due to the proximity of these properties in relation to the tax forfeited properties adjacent to them, these pieces become part of a much bigger puzzle in the MN River valley.

Chippewa County will hire an expert or firm to study the property acquired and develop a long term management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting grounds and general ecological concerns. Based on the plan recommendations, projects will be implemented to address the goal.

Chippewa County will, construct a handicapped accessible dock/fishing pier in the pit.

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?

Acquire 51 acres of riverine wetland/forested wetland.

Develop a management plan to restore the area.

Construct a fishing pier and parking area for the public to access the site.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Land Acquisition

Activity Budget: \$85,000

Activity Description:

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Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Acquisition complet	2022-06-30

Activity 2: Management Plan and Implementation

Activity Budget: \$60,000

Activity Description:

Chippewa County will hire an expert or firm to study the property acquired and develop a long term management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting grounds and general ecological concerns. Based on the plan recommendations, projects will be implemented to address the goal.

Contracts for Plan development as well as implementation will be carried out following a competitive bid process.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Develop plan to manage terrestrial and aquatic habitats to benefit heritage features of the area	2023-06-30

Activity 3: Recreation

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

Chippewa County will, through a competitive bid process, award a contract to construct and install a 40' long fishing pier with a 30' long cross dock at the end. This pier will be handicapped accessible and will be installed by the County Highway Department.

Chippewa County will construct a parking area in the most upland portion of the acquired property. The parking area will have access from the adjacent township gravel road and provide space for approximately 10 vehicles. Chippewa

County will utilize existing funds in the County Park Reserve fund to pay for the parking lot along with in kind design work from the Chippewa County Highway Department.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Parking Area	2023-06-30
Fishing Pier	2023-06-30

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?

Chippewa County includes an allocation in its annual budget to support the county parks. Long term funding for this area and future development will come from budget allocations of the county and private donations made to the parks.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Scott Williams

Job Title: Director, Chippewa County Land & Resource Mgmt.

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

The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners will be responsible for this project by making policy and financial decisions. Day to day activities and management of the site will be delegated to Scott Williams as Project Manager.

Scott Williams, Director of Chippewa County Land & Resource Mgmt. Williams has over 20 years' experience managing Chippewa County's zoning, solid waste, and water planning and park activities. Williams is currently responsible for managing the two county parks in Chippewa County and will be responsible for managing the new parcels when they are acquired.

This is a 2020 recommended project being resubmitted due to Covid 19 Pandemic.

Organization: Chippewa County

Organization Description:

Chippewa County is a recognized unit of government in MN eligible to apply for LCCMR funding.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
To be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Develop a plan to manage terrestrial and aquatic habitat to benefit natural heritage features of the area.				0.25		\$10,000
To be determined	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Chippewa County will hire a firm to implement projects identified in the management plan to protect water quality and benefit the many species native to the specific area. Working with MN DNR Fisheries specialists from Ortonville, the plan will address water quality, spawning and nesting ground				1		\$50,000
Attorney	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Appraisals and Closings				0.1		\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$70,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		Fishing Pier	Provide access to the water resources of the property					\$15,000
							Sub Total	\$15,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								

	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 51 Parcels: 2						\$75,000
							Sub Total	\$75,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$160,000

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				
Cash	County General Fund	Fishing Pier Match	Secured	\$5,000
Cash	County General Fund	Parking area construction	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	County General Fund	County Land & Resource Management Director time and overhead	Secured	\$10,000
In-Kind	County General Fund	Parking area construction by county highway department	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$35,000
			Funds Total	\$35,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Gibson	Chippewa	Riverine wetland, forested wetland	Fee Title	40	-	\$60,000	Private	Chippewa County	Negotiations in Progress
Halverson	Chippewa	riverine wetland, forested wetland	Fee Title	11	-	\$16,500	Private	Chippewa	Negotiations in Progress
Totals				51	0	\$76,500			

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 landowners of these two parcels contacted the county inquiring as to our interest in purchasing these properties. Following conversations with the DNR, it became apparent that this property could have significant impact on the area and that county ownership and protection would be a positive goal.

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.

Chippewa County Local Water Plan identifies the need and the goals but does not identify the specific parcels.

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.

i. US Highway 212 crossed through these parcels at one time. Because road was abandoned and not removed, the old road bed remains on the easterly boundary of the properties. Removal of the road bed will allow the natural flow of water to be restored providing positive impacts on water quality and retention. A management plan will be developed by hiring a qualified contractor to study the area and come up with conclusions that can be implemented to accomplish this goal. A competitive bid process will be utilized to hire a qualified individual/firm.

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.

County Approval will be obtained prior to expenditure of any funds.

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.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [d70aec66-a91.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of the area included in the LCCMR application identifying the parcels to be acquired and the fishing pier and parking area.

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Autohization	5e121a1a-1b8.docx

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Fee Acquisition,

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

No

Does your project include research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Chippewa Acquisition, Recreation and Education



