

Trust Fund 2009 Work Program

Date of Report: June 5, 2009

Date of Next Progress Report: February 1, 2010

Date of Work Program Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2011

I. PROJECT TITLE: Metro Conservation Corridors – Phase V – Friends of the MN Valley – 2.4, Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Project

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Location: Lower Minnesota River Watershed of Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Sibley, and Scott Counties

Total Trust Fund Project Budget:	Trust Fund Appropriation	\$	90,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	0
	Equal Balance:	\$	90,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 4f2.4

Appropriation Language:

\$3,375,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the fifth appropriation for acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$2,185,000 is for Department of Natural Resources agency programs and \$1,190,000 is for agreements as follows: \$380,000 with the Trust for Public Land; \$90,000 with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$155,000 with Great River Greening; \$250,000 with Minnesota Land Trust; \$225,000 with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$90,000 with Friends of the Minnesota Valley for the purposes of planning, restoring, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase

of residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. All funding for conservation easements must include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. To the maximum extent practical, consistent with contractual easement or fee acquisition obligations, the recipients shall utilize staff resources to identify future projects and shall maximize the implementation of biodiverse, quality restoration projects in the project proposal into the first half of the 2010 fiscal year.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: Restore and/or enhance 90 acres of significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed. An additional 45 acres will be restored and/or enhanced using other, non-state funds.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF:

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Restore and/or enhance 90 Acres

Description: Restore and enhance 90 acres of significant biological communities and wildlife habitat throughout the MeCC mapped corridors of the Lower Minnesota River Watershed within Carver, Hennepin, LeSueur, Sibley, and/or Scott Counties. An additional 45 acres will be restored/enhanced using other, non-state funds.

Restoration efforts will focus on public lands including the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, land purchased by the Minnesota Valley Trust, Inc., and on private lands. Priority will be given to permanently protected lands. Restorations on private lands will be protected through a minimum 10 year landowner agreement through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program. Projects will be selected based on but not limited to: ecological importance of area, based on size, habitat quality, buffering of existing high quality habitat, water quality benefits, connectivity to other natural areas, matching funds, and partner interest and commitment.

Friends of the MN Valley and its partners will restore and enhance the hydrology of wetlands such as shallow lakes, for the benefit of wildlife and water quality, plant retired agricultural fields to prairie using native ecotype seed, remove and manage exotic species, and restore important floodplain forest communities along the Minnesota River. Following LCCMR local ecotype guidelines, only native plant species will be used with specific native seed mixes being adjusted for local site conditions and availability. All contracts will be awarded based upon a competitive, experience, and performance basis.

Ecological restoration and management plans will be developed prior to restoration work. With the underlying goal to restore a self sustaining ecosystem, the restoration plans meet or exceed the project requirements as laid out by the LCCMR (M.L. 2009, Chap. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 11. Project Requirements) and utilize natural processes to the extent possible to help establish and maintain the best restoration.

Potential Project List:

Louisville Swamp Wetland Restoration

The Friends will work with the USFWS, MNDNR, and other partners to restore a large wetland within the Louisville Swamp Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge adjacent to Sand Creek in Scott County. The restoration will include the construction of multiple water control structures and installing earthen ditch plugs. All restoration work will be permanently protected and managed by the USFWS.

Duck Lane Wetland Restoration / Enhancement

The Friends will work with the USFWS and other partners to restore and enhance Duck Lake, a large wetland located within the Louisville Swamp Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. This floodplain wetland will be restored by installing a variable height water control structure. All restoration work will be permanently protected and managed by the USFWS.

Jessenland Unit Restoration

The Friends will work with the USFWS and the MN Valley NWR Trust, Inc. to restore oak savanna, floodplain forest, and wetlands within the recently acquired Jessenland Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Located between Belle Plaine and Henderson in Sibley County, the Jessenland Unit is an important piece in linking floodplain forest habitats with adjacent downstream parcels acquired for the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: Trust Fund Budget: \$ 90,000
 Amount Spent: \$ 0
 Balance: \$ 90,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restore and/or enhance 90 Acres	June 15, 2011	\$ 90,000
2.		
3.		

Result Completion Date: June 15th, 2011

Result Status as of: February 1st, 2010

Result Status as of: August 1st, 2010

Result Status as of: February 1st, 2011

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: 90,000

Personnel: \$15,000 - FMV Conservation Projects Manager (.12 FTE)

Contracts: \$ 50,000 (for earthwork contractors to install water control structures, build earthen dams, break drainage tile lines, field prep, seed installation, invasive species removal, etc.)

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 25,000 (for native seed and trees, water control structures, herbicide, chainsaws, gloves, etc.)

Acquisition, including easements: \$ NA

Travel: \$ 0

Other: \$ 0

TOTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 90,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc., local units of government, private landowners, and other partners.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Restoration efforts will increase breeding/migratory habitat for resident/migrant waterfowl including wood ducks and lesser scaup, resident/migrant shorebirds, as well as a myriad of other species including resident game species such as pheasant and deer. Restoration efforts will improve and protect the water quality of the Minnesota River and its tributaries through wetland restoration and restoring retired cropland to native habitat such as prairie and floodplain forest. Friends of the Minnesota Valley will continue to restore and enhance significant biological communities throughout the MeCC mapped corridors within the Lower Minnesota River Watershed.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be spent during the Project Period: \$45,000 Non-State cash and in-kind.

D. Spending History: NA

VII. DISSEMINATION: As projects are completed, Friends of the Minnesota Valley will publicize project accomplishments through press releases, the Friends' quarterly newsletter, and post projects on our website. Other dissemination of information will

be through the Metro Conservation Corridors partnership and on the Metro Corridors website.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than February 2010, August 2010 and February 2011. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: NA

