

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on January 31, 2025

M.L. 2022 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation

Project Manager: Jamie Beyer

Affiliation: Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Mailing Address: 704 Hwy 75 South

City/State/Zip: Wheaton, MN 56296

Phone: (320) 563-4185

E-mail: bdswd@runestone.net

Website: <http://www.bdswd.com/index.html>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

Appropriation Amount: \$2,692,000

Amount Spent: \$2,692,000

Amount Remaining: -

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

We proudly announce completion of the Mustinka River Rehabilitation. This project created a new low-flow meandered channel, over 5.5 sections of land, that provides permanent, continuous, prairie and wetland habitats. The project also features a new series of smaller wetlands, protected within a grassed two-staged channel.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The new 300-foot wide, 260-acre floodplain corridor was constructed in the footprint of the historic Mustinka River. With the help of this fund, we built a two-stage channel that consists of a low-flow meandering channel within a larger floodplain corridor. The channel is designed to maximize long-term stability to prevent degradation, aggradation and migration. The channel has been planted with native seed mixes to establish vegetation. Outer bends have been stabilized with natural toe wood and vegetated reinforced slope stabilization measures to prevent channel migration. Pools and rock hammerheads have been placed to mimic natural stream habitat and promote fish migration. Thirty-four acres of wetlands were created adjacent to the low flow channel. The project site features native riparian and upland habitat. This project is a phenomenal addition to the habitat opportunities already located in western Minnesota, and we expect visitors will utilize this facility in concert with the nearby North Ottawa Impoundment to view, document, and

photograph our local wildlife and migratory populations.

This project is the result of collaboration from a wide variety of stakeholders - with support from area landowners, local/state/federal permitting organizations, and funding organizations (including funds awarded through the Clean Water Fund and Legacy Amendment). We are excited to see birds, fish and other wildlife, along with our Minnesotan citizens, utilize this landmark facility!

Project Results Use and Dissemination

This project is prominently and permanently featured on the www.bds wd.com website, and is afforded the same prominent and permanent recognition in our District's annual reporting. We expect that bird watching groups will setup customized facility inventories, similar to what has been done on behalf of the North Ottawa Impoundment. This project is strongly supported - administratively and financially - by the Red River Watershed Management Board, who coordinates large scale projects for the regional benefit of the Red River of the North watershed. This project is featured prominently in their literature and conferences.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2022 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: February 10, 2025

ID Number: 2022-221

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation

Project Budget: \$2,692,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Jamie Beyer

Organization: Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Office Telephone: (320) 563-4185

Email: bdswd@runestone.net

Web Address: <http://www.bdswd.com/index.html>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: January 31, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: January 31, 2025

Project Completion: December 31, 2024

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h

Appropriation Language: \$2,692,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District to permanently rehabilitate a straightened reach of the Mustinka River to a naturally functioning stream channel and floodplain corridor for water, fish, and wildlife benefits.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: The Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor project will permanently rehabilitate a 5-mile straightened reach of the Mustinka River to a naturally functioning stream channel and floodplain.

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

The Mustinka River is a tributary to Lake Traverse, forming the headwaters to the Red River of the North within the Lake Agassiz Glacial Plain (i.e., Red River Valley). Flooding and water quality are major regional issues in the Red River Valley. The Mustinka River is located within the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, which plans and implements watershed improvement projects as part of a flood damage reduction strategy. An 1896 State project and 1950s Army Corps of Engineers project converted approximately 43 miles of natural, sinuous river channel and floodplain to approximately 25 miles of straightened drainage channel without a functional riparian corridor. This straightened channel became known as Judicial Ditch 14. These past projects exacerbated flooding and water quality issues along the Mustinka and downstream areas. The downstream reach of the Mustinka River frequently experiences high flows that break out of this altered watercourse, causing widespread damage to roads, agricultural lands, and structures. Additionally, agricultural practices have eliminated significant native prairie and wetlands, causing the loss of habitat and connectivity throughout the region.

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

Over the last decade, extensive project development, stakeholder input, agency collaboration, regulatory review, and funding partnerships have been accomplished for the project. Through a public legal proceeding, the BdSWD established this project under 103D in 2016. Extensive watershed, river, and fluvial geomorphology modeling and attention to natural stream processes have been used to inform project design, which considered hydrology and sediment load. Project design focuses on long-term channel stability and incorporation of natural enhancements. This project will rehabilitate 5 miles of the channelized and straightened Mustinka River to create over 8 miles of functioning riparian corridor. The rehabilitated corridor will provide flood reduction and water quality benefits, while creating aquatic and native upland habitat. A 300 foot wide, 260-acre floodplain corridor will be created, along with construction of an 8-mile long meandering channel that mimics a natural stream, including the use of natural vegetative bank stabilization measures and specific placement of pools and rock riffles for fish migration enhancement. Approximately 34 acres of wetland and 226 acres of native upland areas will be created along the stream channel and associated floodplain.

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?

Rehabilitation of the Mustinka River is a unique opportunity to create and permanently provide significant fish and wildlife habitat enhancements to a predominantly agricultural area known for its extensive altered hydrology. The project will contribute to the local and regional flood damage reduction and water quality improvement efforts for the Mustinka River and downstream waterbodies. The project will create 34 acres of wetland habitat and 226 acres of native riparian and upland habitat within a new floodplain corridor. The project lands have already been acquired by the BdSWD, offer permanent protection and public access for recreation.

Project Location

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

Region(s):

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

Region(s):

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Restoration of Mustinka River Corridor

Activity Budget: \$2,692,000

Activity Description:

A new 300-foot wide, 260-acre floodplain corridor will be constructed in the footprint of the historic Mustinka River, and Judicial Ditch 14 will no longer serve as the primary conveyance channel. The rehabilitation corridor will be constructed as a two-stage channel that consists of a low-flow meandering channel within a larger, channel and floodplain corridor. The channel was designed to maximize long-term stability to prevent degradation, aggradation and migration. The channel will be planted with native seed mixes to establish vegetation. Outer bends will be further stabilized using natural toe wood and vegetated reinforced slope stabilization measures to prevent channel migration. Pools and rock hammerheads will be placed to mimic natural stream habitat and promote fish migration. Wetlands will be created adjacent to the low flow channel.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Finalize design and obtain all permits	September 30, 2022
Finalize funding awards and agreements	June 30, 2023
Project bidding	September 30, 2023
Construction of channel and floodplain	November 30, 2024
Construct wetland basins	November 30, 2024
Vegetation seeding and establishment: channel, wetlands, uplands	November 30, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Moore Engineering Inc	Moore Engineering Inc	Moore Engineering Inc. is the appointed District Engineer responsible for project design, coordination and implementation of the project.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District’s plans for dissemination, presentation, and documentation are to acknowledge this award through the use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines, and include:

- The project’s location and terms of general operation will be prominently displayed on the District’s webpage.
- The project site will be promoted as a bird and wildlife watching destination to special interest groups.
- The project’s design has been frequently featured in presentations hosted by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka River Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Partnership Red River Watershed Management Board, and MN Association of Watershed Districts. As the second largest facility of its kind in Minnesota, we will seek opportunities to feature the completed project in upcoming workshops post-construction.
- The project’s construction progress, operation and monitoring results will be prominently featured in the District’s annual report, which is published to the District website and distributed to the District’s six member counties. The annual report is also sent to staff at BWSR, the DNR Commissioner’s Office and Ecological Division.

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 work be funded?

ENRTF will provide the necessary funds to construct the project via a public bid process. Following project construction, ongoing monitoring will be required to ensure that the project meets the standards of the site-specific restoration management plan. Sustainability and maintenance of this river rehabilitation is required by watershed district law (M.S. 103D). Long-term maintenance and management will be the responsibility of the BdSWD and funded through agricultural lease agreements from farmlands within a nearby impoundment owned by the District. Several funding partners (i.e., local, regional and state) are also included in the development and construction of this project.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Contracts and Services										
To Be Determined via Public Bid Process	Service Contract	Contracted services for construction of the project secured through the public bidding process. Includes, construction of the corridor, low flow-channel and wetland basins, spoil bank leveling, erosion control, water quality BMPs for side inlets and road crossings, and vegetation establishment.				0		\$2,692,000	\$2,692,000	-
							Sub Total	\$2,692,000	\$2,692,000	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										

							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$2,692,000	\$2,692,000	-

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	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
Cash	Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF)	These funds have an earlier expiration date, June 30, 2024, so we will utilize them for construction taking place in 2023. Excavation of river rehabilitation floodplain and meandering channel, topsoil stripping and replacement, seeding, construction of road crossings, and misc.	Secured	\$2,440,000	\$2,440,000	-
Cash	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Project and Practices Competitive Grant Program	These funds must be used on or before December 31, 2024. Excavation of river rehabilitation floodplain and meandering channel, topsoil stripping and replacement, seeding, construction of road crossings, and misc.	Secured	\$800,000	\$800,000	-
			State Sub Total	\$3,240,000	\$3,240,000	-
Non-State						
Cash	Red River Water Management Board Clean Water Grant (RRWMB CWG)	Excavation of river rehabilitation floodplain and meandering channel, topsoil stripping and replacement, seeding, construction of road crossings, and misc.	Secured	\$507,000	\$507,000	-
Cash	Bois de Sioux River Watershed District Construction Funds	Engineering, construction inspection, and misc. construction activities.	Secured	\$561,000	\$254,201	\$306,799
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,068,000	\$761,201	\$306,799
			Funds Total	\$4,308,000	\$4,001,201	\$306,799

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Parcel 1	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	25.58	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 10	Grant	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	33.94	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 13	Grant	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	38.8	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 2	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for	Restoration	25.21	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed

		acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.							
Parcel 3	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	49.32	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 4	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	45.42	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 5	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	46.65	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed

Parcel 6	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	62.27	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 7	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	41.56	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 8	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.	Restoration	60.13	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed
Parcel 9	Traverse	This parcel has been acquired by the BdSWD for the purposes of this project. No ENRTF funds are proposed for acquisition. Site of proposed Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor. Existing land use is agricultural. Future condition will consist of functional floodplain corridor with low flow meandering channel, created and	Restoration	19.54	-	-	Public	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Completed

		natural wetlands, and native prairie plant communities.							
Totals				448.42	0	-			

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.

The BdSWD has already acquired ownership of all necessary lands for project construction through its authorities under MN Statute 103D. Lands will be permanently protected and open to the public for outdoor recreation.

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.

The project has three main components: channel and riparian corridor rehabilitation, wetland creation, and native vegetation establishment. The expected outcomes include flood damage reduction, water quality improvements to the river and downstream waterbodies, aquatic habitat creation, native upland habitat, fishery benefits, and public outdoor recreation land. The rehabilitated river channel and floodplain will provide contiguous wildlife habitat, wetlands, and native vegetation in an area that has been in agricultural production for over 100 years. Ongoing monitoring and adaptive management will ensure the project is successful for its intended purposes for future generations. The design plans, management plans, and other relevant project plans are kept on file at the BdSWD office in Wheaton, MN and also by the BdSWD consultant, Moore Engineering, Inc. Overall strategies for long-term plan implementation have been outlined in the plans, and includes monitoring and management of the project and dedicated funding sources for annual project maintenance by BdSWD staff and their consultants.

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.

BdSWD worked with Minnesota Native Landscapes to develop a native seeding, monitoring and management plan for the rehabilitation corridor. All restoration design components have followed the BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines to determine target plant communities, seed selection, establishment methods and overall management strategies. Site-specific monitoring plans have been developed following this guidance. Habitat and native vegetation establishment is also consistent with goals in the MN Prairie Conservation Plan.

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.

The project has been designed with long-term stability in mind which has been documented in plans that will direct construction and maintenance of the project. The BdSWD staff and its consultants will ensure the successful establishment of the project through monitoring and adaptive management. Sustainability and maintenance of this project is the responsibility of the BdSWD as required by watershed district law (Minnesota Statutes 103D). Long-term maintenance and management needs will be funded from income generated from agricultural lease agreements on farmlands within a nearby impoundment owned by the BdSWD. Maintenance and management funds are available from the BdSWD’s “Construction and Maintenance Fund” which receives an annual contribution through the membership with the Red River Watershed Management Board.

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

BdSWD will annually review project needs as these will likely vary each year. The BdSWD will contact the Minnesota Conservation Corps regional manager to determine if the needs of the project can be met by an available field crew in a given year.

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.

For the first three years, project site monitoring will occur monthly during the growing season to determine native vegetation establishment. Adaptive management will be used to document and determine methods to address poor establishment, weed control, and other potential issues. Annual monitoring will continue in years 3-5 to document weed populations and any areas of poor establishment. Adaptive management will focus on practices to suppress undesirable weed growth and increase desired species diversity. Practices may include controlled burns, grazing management, mowing or haying. Monitoring results will be compiled. The monitoring results will be used to evaluate whether the project has been successful in improving the parcel and meeting desired project outcomes, identify potential problems areas and corrective measures, and summarize findings for potential future restorations.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [7e1dfa9f-4d5.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map of the overall project area including the proposed Mustinka River Rehabilitation Corridor located within Grant and Traverse Counties. Map identifies parcels impacted by the project which have been acquired by the BdSWD. Map provides a 3D view of a section of the proposed corridor and low-flow, meandering channel....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
BdSWD Letter Authorizing Application	de4383ef-86e.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Red River Watershed Management Board_Support Letter	5bf26659-3ad.pdf
Red River Basin Commission Support Letter	381f40d7-3e5.pdf
Certificate of Survey showing affecting parcels	7cf4172c-9d5.pdf
Financial Statement	2ebd7f1d-470.pdf
Background Check Form	c396409c-849.pdf
Plans and Specs	9feb2b3d-9e8.pdf
Project Manual	39a5329a-696.pdf
Project Information Sheet	10349acc-35f.pdf
2024.07 Progress Update and Photos	b68a7438-83f.pdf
Final Photos	19587814-604.pdf

Media Links

Title	Link
Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project Drone Footage	https://vimeo.com/1019819066
Bois de Sioux Watershed District Homepage	http://www.bds wd.com/
District Projects - Mustinka River & Redpath Flood Impoundment Featured	http://www.bds wd.com/Program_Template.html

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

I made the 3 recommendation changes, thanks for your help!

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

Yes

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Not acknowledged

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2025 New Completion Date: 12/31/2024	Project is completed	January 15, 2025	Yes	January 15, 2025

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update February 14, 2025

Date Submitted: January 27, 2025

Date Approved: January 31, 2025

Overall Update

The project is completed, and outcomes were constructed as designed/permitted. The project created 34 acres of wetland habitat and 226 acres of native riparian and upland habitat within a new floodplain corridor.

Construction began 2023 and continued throughout 2024 with relatively few disruptions. The contractor excavated material for a new meandering channel, and used the excavated material to build protective berms on each side of the channel. Vegetation was planted, and we excitedly watched the meander channel slowly fill with water. On one early visit to the site, reptiles were observed in the newly constructed channel!

The channel meanders over 5 sections of land. As construction is now complete, the District will work to have signage installed at the site after the ground thaws. Bird watching and wildlife enthusiasts will now have two sites to enjoy, within close proximity: both the North Ottawa Flood Impoundment and the Mustinka River Rehabilitation.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

We continue to prominently feature the groundbreaking event, attended by a bipartisan representation of legislators, on our homepage. The homepage also features drone footage of construction. We also provide a map and description under "What We Do -> Water Quantity and Quality 103D Projects"

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2025

Date Submitted: January 27, 2025

Date Approved: January 31, 2025

Overall Update

Construction is complete. Thirty-four acres of wetland habitat and two hundred twenty-six acres of native riparian and upland habitat were created within a new floodplain corridor.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

We continue to prominently feature the groundbreaking event, attended by a bipartisan representation of legislators, on our homepage. The homepage also features drone footage of construction. We also provide a map and description under "What We Do -> Water Quantity and Quality 103D Projects"

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update December 10, 2024

Date Submitted: January 27, 2025

Date Approved: January 31, 2025

Overall Update

Construction is complete. Thirty-four acres of wetland habitat and two hundred twenty-six acres of native riparian and upland habitat were created within a new floodplain corridor.

Activity 1

The remaining items are complete: Construction of Channel and floodplain; Construct wetland basins; Vegetation seeding and establishment.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

The project continues to be prominently displayed. The annual report is required by Minnesota Statute and is typically approved in May by the board and published immediately thereafter.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2024

Date Submitted: July 25, 2024

Date Approved: October 15, 2024

Overall Update

The purpose of the project is to construct an 8-mile long meandering channel. The project was publicly bid and a contract awarded in April. Construction began once wet conditions dried out. One mile of the meandering channel has been constructed, and work continues.

Activity 1

Activity 1 (Design/Permitting), Activity 2 (Finalize Funding Awards), Activity 3 (Project Bidding) are all complete. Activities 4 (Channel/Floodplain construction), 5 (Wetland construction), and 6 (Seeding) are all in-progress now.

Dissemination

The project is featured on our website at http://www.bds wd.com/Program_Template.html and is also described in our Annual Report that was completed and submitted to state agencies in May.

<http://www.bds wd.com/PDF/Annual%20Reports/BdSWD%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf>

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2024

Date Submitted: February 12, 2024

Date Approved: March 13, 2024

Overall Update

Because of favorable weather, construction was able to continue through December 2023. Onsite inspectors continued to verify the quantities of excavated material removed, and drones are being used to document construction activities. The District has utilized the project's full LSOHC fund award, and will begin utilizing the LCCMR fund award for reimbursement with the next approved pay application.

Activity 1

As stated in the last update, Action 1 (design and permitting), Action 2 (finalize funding awards and agreements), and Action 3 (project bidding) are complete. Actions 4, 5 and 6 are in progress. Action 4: 2.1 miles of a new remeandered Mustinka River Channel has been excavated. Action 5: wetland basins are being created. Action 6: 175 acres have been seeded to Mesic Prairie, Wet Prairie, Wet Meadow, and Emergent Wetland seeding mixes.

Dissemination

The Mustinka River Rehabilitation project's location and terms of general operation continues to be prominently displayed on the District's webpage -> bdsd.com -> under "WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY: 103D PROJECTS & PROGRAMS".

The project was a featured stop on the MN DNR Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup Bus Tour, held September 22nd in conjunction with a groundbreaking ceremony. Commissioners Thom Peterson and Sarah Strommen were in attendance, along with Clean Water Council staff Paul Gardner. Tour participants were impressed with the size and scale of the project, which is difficult to convey without a site visit. Information about the tour is featured on bdsd.com.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2023

Date Submitted: October 16, 2023

Date Approved: December 12, 2023

Overall Update

The District was awarded all necessary permits, and advertised for construction bids. On March 2, 2023 bids were opened and on March 16, 2023 the project was awarded to the apparent low bidder, John Riley Construction, Inc. Construction began May 30, 2023. Onsite inspectors verify the quantities of excavated material removed, and drones are being used to document construction activities. The District has LSOHC funds that are set to expire June 30, 2024, so the priority for use of grant funds is with that award. Once exhausted, the District will begin to utilize the LCCMR grant. Remeandering of a new Mustinka River Channel has been excavated on the first mile of land acquired by the District. There are approximately 6 miles total.

Activity 1

Since the last update, Action 1 (design and permitting), Action 2 (finalize funding awards and agreements), and Action 3 (project bidding) are complete. Construction had not been initiated with the last update - for the purposes of this update, we now have an active contractor on-site.

We are on the second mile of construction, working simultaneously on Action 4 (construction of channel and floodplain), Action 5 (construct wetland basins), Action 6 (vegetation seeding and establishment).

Please see attached Progress Reports.

Dissemination

The Bois de Sioux's website was recently streamlined and reorganized. The Mustinka River Rehabilitation project's location and terms of general operation is prominently displayed on the District's webpage -> www.bdswd.com -> under "WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY: 103D PROJECTS & PROGRAMS". A photo has also been posted on the District's homepage, and includes a promotion as a bird and wildlife watching destination to special interest groups.

The project will be a stop on the MN DNR Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup Bus Tour, to be held September 22nd in conjunction with a groundbreaking ceremony. It is expected that staff from several state agencies, commissioner's office, and possibly the Governor's Office will be in attendance, in addition to legislators.

The District's annual report was approved and published April 20, 2024 - a copy is on our website -> www.bdswd.com -> under "RESOURCES".

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2023

Date Submitted: May 8, 2023

Date Approved: May 9, 2023

Overall Update

The project's multi-agency permits (local, state, and federal) are all approved. The project's plans, specifications, and contract documents were drafted and finalized by Moore Engineering and Ohnstad Twichell legal staff in order to advertise the project for public bid. A pre-bid contractor meeting was held by Moore Engineering to receive any questions contractors may have. A Notice of Award was approved on March 16, 2023 by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board to apparent low-bidder John Riley Construction, Inc. Contract documents have been signed, including the Notice to Proceed. The contractor may begin work at any time.

State Funds Awarded: The OHF and BWSR grants will be utilized for payments to the contractor, which is why we are reporting \$0, as the contractor has not begun yet

Non-State Funds Awarded: These funds are used for engineering, legal, and other project related costs, of which a total of \$558,546 has been incurred to get through the permitting and contract award activities for this project.

Activity 1

Milestone 1: Finalize design and obtain all permits = Done. Permits included: Section 401 Certification from the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers and MPCA; Section 408 Permission from the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers; Section 404 Permit from the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers; Traverse County Land Use Permit; Dam Safety & Public Waters Work Permit from the MN DNR; Directors' Advisory Reports provided by MN DNR and MN BWSR

Milestone 2: Finalize funding awards and agreements = Done.

Milestone 3: Project Bidding = Done.

Milestones 4, 5, & 6 (construction of the channel and floodplain, constructed wetland basins, and vegetation seeding and establishment) will begin once spring floodwaters recede and conditions are appropriate for construction.

Dissemination

We disseminate, present, and document this award through the use of the trust fund logo and attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage and other communications per the ENTRF Acknowledgement Guidelines. Activities completed and ongoing include:

- Prominently displays on several of the District's static webpages: <http://www.bdswd.com/>, http://www.bdswd.com/Projects_Template.html, http://www.bdswd.com/Program_Template.html.
- The project's design and grant awards have been frequently featured during in-person project presentations (one of which was recorded and can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6gN-HOX8dg>). We created a QR code for this presentation and have used this presentation to describe the project at meetings of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka Joint Watershed Comprehensive Plan Policy and Steering Committee meetings. From Dec 2022 - Feb 2023, in-person presentations were given by board managers and staff with two state senators and two state representatives, and we tell people The handout with the QR code is offered at each visit.
- The project's construction progress, operation and monitoring results are prominently featured in the District's annual report, available here: <http://www.bdswd.com/Annual%20Reports.html>