



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2024 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2024-094

Staff Lead: Tom Dietrich

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 11, 2024

Project Title: Zumbro River Regional Water Trail

Project Budget: \$170,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Jason Baker

Organization: City of Oronoco

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 20, 2024

Reporting Schedule: June 1 / December 1 of each year.

Project Completion: July 31, 2025

Final Report Due Date: September 14, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 09f

Appropriation Language: \$170,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Oronoco to complete a master plan for the Zumbro River Regional Water Trail that considers existing amenities, connections from towns to natural features, and improved user experience. This appropriation may also be used to create a joint powers board among the four counties and multiple jurisdictions connected to the Zumbro River to guide the master plan development.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2027

Narrative

Project Summary: Completion of the Master Plan for the Zumbro River Regional Water Trail (ZRRWT). Roughly 150 miles of navigable waters that wind through a diverse landscape before joining the Mississippi River.

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

The ZRRWT will create an experience connecting people between land and river. The thirteen river communities will strengthen their connections by enhancing existing and creating new facilities designed to accommodate multiple user groups. A Master Plan strategy would analyze existing amenities, develop connections from towns to natural features, and improve user experience. Currently, most local residents and visitors don't know how to access the river or existing amenities, nor is the river recognized for the larger network of recreational opportunities that exist.

Paddlers connect to the river from towns and state parks which can be strengthened through better connections from the water and trails. Existing public access points are a good start to create better experiences along the trail, but more access facilities will need to be developed to fill gaps. Trailhead signage and interpretation areas are needed to create a uniform understanding of locations and distances to regional destinations. Development of destinations will create more opportunities for local community partnerships to program river events, benefiting an active lifestyle for residents and visitors. Many county, city and resident partners are on board with developing these facilities. In initial discussions, the Mn/DNR supports the regional approach to the trail.

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.

- Formally establish a Joint Powers Board to ensure proper alignment with the identified primary goals for this project.
- Creation of a Master Plan will ensure the best level of financial investment in existing and new river access sites.

The Master Plan will include:

- o Develop signage and maps which unify the trail and encourage exploration.
- o Enhance sites to provide greater river accessibility for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels.
- o Create new river access locations with various amenities in areas found to be underserved or a gap in the system.
- o Stimulate the local economy of towns and businesses along the river. Many of the communities along the river offer services for people using the trails.
- o The Mayo Clinic in Rochester is a regional draw for young professionals and brings patients and their families to the region. The ZRRWT would create a cost- efficient opportunity for these people to experience the beauty of the Minnesota landscape.
- o The ZRRWT is a regional asset to Minnesota that will draw users from greater distances, as well as providing recreational activities for local communities.

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?

The outcomes of this project include a renewed, positive identity for the region's environmental assets, and increased opportunities to promote and educate users on the necessity to maintain our sensitive environments. Through these education opportunities, the identity of the Zumbro River will be positively impacted, and more care will be given to the health of the watershed. The efforts of this project will create new and enhance the existing regionalized facilities along the river to help increase the river trails usage and promote regional economic development. The Master Plan will help identify the best uses and locations for future investments.

Project Location

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

Region(s): SE

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

Region(s): SE

When will the work impact occur?

In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Program Management & Joint Powers Board

Activity Budget: \$25,000

Activity Description:

Creation of Joint Powers Board composed of stakeholder members from Counties and Cities identified herein. The Joint Powers Board would be formally adopted to have authority over the development of the master plan: evaluating criteria, setting deadlines, selecting intervention areas, and participating in engagement events; as well as future phases of the ZRRWT. The board members would be chosen on a volunteer basis and be responsible for representing the best interests of their represented community. The Board would develop their own governance materials, roles, and responsibilities therein.

Our timeline reflects work being done outside of the LCCMR funding window, including reaching out to Joint Powers Board potential members. Compensation for this work will not be allocated from LCCMR funds. We are confident in our ability to meet the deadlines of our timeline. The Board would approve SEH as project manager for the Master Planning process upon establishment.

Any legal fees accrued during this project will be in the establishment of the Joint Powers Board and estimated at \$1,500. This fee being a direct expense from the creation of the JPB we believe, is essential to the project and would qualify for funding from the LCCMR.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Confirmation of participating members, roles and responsibilities	August 31, 2024
Creation of governance materials	September 30, 2024
Adoption of Joint Powers Board	September 30, 2024
Project Manager Approval	September 30, 2024

Activity 2: Stakeholder Engagement & Master Planning

Activity Budget: \$145,000

Activity Description:

This activity will engage the various local and regional stakeholders for input and create the criteria for site evaluation and river site access investment recommendations. This also includes travel mileage within Minnesota for site reviews and project meetings and printing/publishing costs for public engagement and communications.

The Master plan will build upon existing site analysis maps and resources to evaluate exiting river inlet locations. New locations will be selected based on criteria from stakeholder recommendations and an evaluation matrix developed by the stakeholder. Site visits will be complete for several potential inlet locations. A selected number of sites will receive full master plan analysis and concept-level design services. Concept designs may include these elements: river inlet design, parking lot, picnic areas, restrooms, informational signage, directional signage, walking paths, and information on connectivity to the greater regional water trail. These site concepts will serve as templates for the greater region, as funding for additional park design or improvements becomes available. Physical and digital versions of the Master Plan document will be reviewed and approved by stakeholders.

Acknowledgement of the LCCMR funds will be stated in all print and digital material produced by using the LCCMR logo and in written form.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Creation of evaluation criteria to evaluate existing river sites	November 30, 2024
Identification of potential new river sites to develop	January 31, 2025
Stakeholder engagement and review of sites	February 28, 2025
Draft Master Plan review by stakeholders	May 31, 2025
Approval and adoption of final Master Plan document	June 30, 2025
Project Completion- this phase	July 31, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dodge	County	Sponsor Local Government Unit (LGU) Contribution: \$10,000	No
Goodhue	County	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$14,000	No
Olmsted	County	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$14,000	No
Wabasha	County	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Hammond	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Kasson	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$5,154	No
Mantorville	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Mazeppa	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Milville	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Oronoco	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Pine Island	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Rochester	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Zumbro Falls	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Zumbrota	City	Sponsor (LGU) Contribution: \$154	No
Zumbro Watershed	Watershed District	Sponsor Contribution: \$9,551	No
Lake Zumbro Improvement Association	Homeowners Association	Sponsor Contribution: \$154	No
People's Energy Cooperative	Electric Utility Company	Sponsor Contribution: \$4,600	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 Zumbro River Regional Water Trail will culminate in a document that will be posted online and shared with City, County, and State agencies, and the Joint Powers Board. These agencies can then utilize the master plan to guide development and implement design strategies from the plan. The contents will also be posted on the Zumbro River Regional Water Trail website. Acknowledgement of the LCCMR funds will be stated in all print and digital material produced throughout the Master Plan process by using the LCCMR logo and in written form.

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?

As the 150-mile ZRRWT corridor overlaps four counties and multiple jurisdictions, a Joint Power Board is most appropriate to coordinate and oversee guidance and implementation of various projects. If funds are awarded, the Joint Powers Board will be created and guide the development and recommendations identified in the Master Plan and oversee the future phased implementation of enhanced and developed project sites. The Master Plan will include potential funding sources for the various projects, including local and state funds, such as DNR, LCCMR, and Minnesota bonding, along with federal grant funding.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Program/Project Management by the fiscal agent, Oronoco; site selection; public engagement; assessment phasing recommendations; regularly scheduled meetings; and completing the Master Plan. Consultants SEH will develop the Master Plan document and any related materials.				0		\$160,000
							Sub Total	\$160,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Minimum of 2 trips, 200 miles each for 2-5 people	Site/field reconnaissance and data collection for site locations; stakeholder/steering board meetings; public engagement					\$5,000
							Sub Total	\$5,000

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Plotting/mounting oversized color graphics/boards	For public presentations and communications with stakeholder groups					\$5,000
							Sub Total	\$5,000
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$170,000

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	Initial programming non-LCCMR funding received to date. See Project Partners and Collaborators section.	Initial planning and program coordination.	Secured	\$58,855
			Non State Sub Total	\$58,855
			Funds Total	\$58,855

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [42f7af6e-60a.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

A map of the Zumbro river across the four counties. Identified are areas of current access, including those managed by the MnDNR, and potential new access points. The map also displays: cities, the Zumbro River watershed, parks, and existing state biking trails. Also, eight photos of existing kayak access points....

Financial Capacity

File: [88edcbd5-a31.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
LCCMR Board Resolution 2023-09 Approval Letter (Oronoco)	06f4ec66-aab.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Coverletter	bf9df4a5-84d.pdf
County Resolutions	02dd7f93-743.pdf
City Resolutions	7722507b-90c.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Tab 3: General Information - Project location was updated with new drop-down options to provide more specificity.

Tab 9: Dissemination - Planned dissemination efforts were updated.

Tab 5: Activities and Milestones- Updated with clarifications requested in Comments.

Tab 6: Budget- Updated to reflect contract delineation and clarifications.

Tab 9: Dissemination: Language clarified for dissemination efforts.

Task 6: Budget - Updated first action, the Joint Powers Board

Task 16: Clarification of funding.

Task 13 & 16: Budget- simplified budget for clarification

Task 17: Fiscal agent, Oronoco, to perform duties as Project Manager

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 agree travel expenses must follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I agree to the Commissioner's Plan.

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?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No