



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-022

Proposal Title: Morrison County Historical Society Streambank Stabilization and Restoration

Project Manager Information

Name: Shannon Wettstein

Organization: Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District

Office Telephone: (320) 631-3553

Email: shannon.wettstein@morrisonswcd.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Construction funding is needed to stabilize a unique shoreline site using a bioengineered design incorporating native plants soil wraps, stream barbs and root wads to create aquatic habitat.

Funds Requested: \$519,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2025

LCCMR Funding 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): Central

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

Region(s): Central

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.

This stretch of shoreline is where significant erosive forces have been acting upon the bank and has caused excessive erosion along 400 feet of sandy soils extending as high as 30 feet up the bank. It is located two miles from Little Falls Dam at the confluence of Pike Creek and the Mississippi River in a landscape that is ranked second highest of Minnesota's most important source water protection watersheds for its ability to produce clean water for approximately 1.2 million people for drinking water.

The erosion was identified in 2015 but on June 29th, 2020 an extreme storm in Little Falls produced 8 inches of rain in six hours and caused a massive portion of the stream bank to slough off. The erosion has been occurring due to clearwater discharge from the previously mentioned dam and has altered fish habitat and contributed to soil loss, by pulling sediment from vulnerable bank areas.

The landowner, Morrison County Historical Society, worked to secure funding for a design through the help of private donations, the City of Little Falls and Morrison County. Engineered was completed early this year by Ulteig Engineering with the assistance of the SWCD, DNR Fisheries and Waters.

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.

This proposal will stabilize the eroded stream bank by using bioengineering incorporating native vegetated soil wraps, stream barbs and root wads to create aquatic habitat. The design will effectively add needed protection, while improving fish habitat and stability. Single rock veins will provide significant habitat benefits while offering toe protection and deflection of near bank, higher current velocity areas. The net effect is velocity vectors pulling away from the aforementioned bank area on the 400 foot stretch of shoreline.

The Morrison County Historical Society felt very strongly about using a bioengineered design which incorporated habitat components as well as native vegetation and did not include concrete retaining walls and excessive hard scaping. This section of the Mississippi is one of the most pristine along the whole river system with this location being less than five miles from the most undeveloped stretches of the river, the 18 miles which runs through Camp Ripley.

The final design regarded alternatives and cost. Construction will occur after permits have been obtained from the Army Corps of Engineers, DNR Public Water Work Permit and the City of Little Falls. Work will occur outside of the fish exclusion window of April-June.

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?

This site is located within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL) which is a diverse matrix of wetlands, prairie and forest. The CRSL works to preserve natural corridors as they are crucial to climate change resilience and water benefits. Waterways are especially critical as they provide habitat, food and migration corridors for many species. This area boasts a great deal of recreational angling for Walleye, Smallmouth Bass, Channel catfish and Muskellunge. Each of these species requires habitat diversity. The engineered design incorporates bioengineering and habitat components which will ensure a healthy fishery and blend in with its natural surroundings.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Construction

Activity Budget: \$470,000

Activity Description:

Construction of Restorative Features, Seeding and Native Buffers

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Earth Work and Streambank Stabilization	September 30, 2024
Native Plant Seeding and Plugging	September 30, 2024

Activity 2: Construction Inspection

Activity Budget: \$44,000

Activity Description:

Construction Inspection and As-Built Survey Completion

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
On-Site Construction Inspection	September 30, 2024
Pre-Construction Meeting	September 30, 2024
As-Built Engineered Plans Certified	June 30, 2025

Activity 3: Grant Administration and Project Management

Activity Budget: \$4,000

Activity Description:

Complete Project Summary and Final Report Submission

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Request for Proposal (RFP) by Morrison SWCD to solicit qualified contractors to complete the streambank	August 31, 2024
Board Approval of Final Payments to Contractors	December 31, 2024
Final Report Submission to LCCMR	June 30, 2025

Activity 4: Preparation Work Leading Up to Funding Appropriation

Activity Budget: \$1,000

Activity Description:

Work completed prior to construction.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Engineering - Geotechnical Survey, Elevation Survey, Draft Plans, Final Design and Permitting	February 28, 2023
Phase 1 Archeology Survey	September 30, 2023
Application to National Register of Historical Places	December 31, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Camille Warzecha	Morrison County Historical Society	President	No
Roger Clay	Ulteig	Engineer	Yes
Greg Kimman	City of Little Falls	Engineer	No
Matt LeBlanc	Morrison County	Administrator	No

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?

Morrison SWCD will work with Ulteig Engineering to oversee construction of the one-time project. Additional funding will not be needed once the project is installed. The Morrison County Historical Society will be responsible for maintenance of the site. If additional work is needed such as re-seeding and plant establishment the landowner may work with the SWCD to obtain state cost share funding to get the site vegetated.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Oak Wilt Suppression at its Northern Edge	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b	\$100,000
Morrison County Performance Drainage and Hydrology Management II	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 03j	\$197,000
Oak Wilt Suppression At The Northern Edge II	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 06c	\$423,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Shannon Wettstein

Job Title: District Manager

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

Shannon Wettstein, District Manager for Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District holds an MBA from the University of Chester England and an Environmental Studies degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth. She has served in this role since 2018, prior to this she worked as the Water Planner in another district. Wettstein has been working in the conservation of natural resources since 2002.

Morrison SWCD has a long successful history of administering and executing grants such as MPCA 319 grants, NRCS RCPP and state direct agreements, NACD and Clean Water Funds through BWSR as well as the budget for the district which includes multiple sources of funding from the state, county, and federal funds. The district also is the main fiscal for the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape (CRSL) partnership, administers the MN Wetland Conservation Act, the Local Water Plan, is the fiscal for a One Watershed One Plan and administers one of the biggest easement programs in the state, the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program which holds just over 300 easements funded by the Dept. of Defense,

LSOHC, and National Guard Bureau which has received nearly \$44,000,000 to date. The mission of Morrison SWCD is to provide leadership and direct assistance for conservation management of soil and water.

Organization: Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District

Organization Description:

Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is to "To provide leadership and direct assistance for conservation management of soil and water." The district is directed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, each is elected to serve a four-year term of office. The SWCD has eight staff which have the primary focus of offering technical assistance to landowners. When funds are available the district also provides cost share assistance to install conservation practices on private lands to solve resource concerns identified through one or several planning documents which guides the district. The district has been a leader in the natural resource community and is often the first-place citizens, county commissioners and agency staff call or stop for help.

Morrison SWCD offers 40 different programs including the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) and other RIM easement programs, AgBMP, climatology reporting, NRCS RCPP, nitrate testing, Water Plan administration and administers the Wetland Conservation Act and the Buffer Law for Morrison County. The office works collaboratively with other partner agencies effectively and provides technical assistance to landowners to help them solve resource concerns regarding forestry, shoreland, hydrology and drainage, conservation agronomy and nutrient management and native plant community restoration.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Engineering Technician		Construction Inspection			20%	0.02		\$2,500
Lead Technician		Construction Inspection			20%	0.02		\$2,500
District Manager		Project Manager			20%	0.01		\$2,500
Administrative Assistant / Bookkeeper		Bookkeeper			20%	0.01		\$500
							Sub Total	\$8,000
Contracts and Services								
Insured Contractor	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Selected Contractor to do the restoration features, seeding and native plantings				0.02		\$470,000
Ulteig	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Construction Inspection and Final As-Built Survey and Plan				0.01		\$26,000
Braun Intertec	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Oversight of FLEX MSE Wall Construction				0.01		\$14,000
							Sub Total	\$510,000
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								
	Publication	Request for Proposals	Soliciting bids for construction					\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$1,000
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$519,000

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	City of Little Falls	Funds to be used towards construction.	Secured	\$49,000
Cash	Morrison County	Funds to be used towards construction.	Secured	\$83,000
Cash	Private Funds	To be used towards construction.	Secured	\$30,000
Cash	City of Little Falls	Engineering Costs	Secured	\$21,000
Cash	Morrison County	Engineering Costs and Permitting	Secured	\$57,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$240,000
			Funds Total	\$240,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Morrison County Historical Society, Parcel Number 49-1107016	Morrison	River Confluence - Mississippi River and Pike Creek; Culturally Significant	Restoration	0.2	0.08	\$647,000	Private		Has Not Begun
Totals				0.2	0.08	\$647,000			

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.

This land is owned by the Morrison County Historical Society. They are a private nonprofit organization that was organized in 1936 by members that elect its board of directors. The site however falls within the statutory boundaries of the Charles A. Lindbergh State Park as identified in the attached document. The Historical Society is committed to remain the owner of the property but if forced to divest they are committed to transferring the property to the state for inclusion into the park so it will be available as it is now, for the public use and enjoyment into perpetuity (see Letter of Support, Attached). The site houses the Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum and houses the collection of Morrison County's historic and cultural infrastructure. The society is petitioning to be on the National Register of Historic Places as it is eligible in 2025. The site has unique cultural significance in the area as it is the confluence of Pike Creek and the Mississippi River. Due to this significance the society has been awarded a grant to complete a Phase 1 archeological survey which will be completed the summer of 2023 and will have the Mille Lacs Tribal Historic Preservation Officer representatives onsite during the survey.

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.

Significant shoreline bank reshaping will need to happen before the toe of the slope and the base of the new slope can be established and the soil wraps can be installed on top of it. Live cuttings will be imbedded in-between the layers of these flex MSE bags or soil wraps. A berm will run along the top of the bank to limit any overland runoff pressure on the slope. Willow waddles will be placed along the toe of the slope to conceal rip rap and revegetate this area. Rip rap piers or stream barbs will be spaced along the length of the restored bank. Currently along the 400 foot length four stream barbs and six small piers with large root wadded logs are being proposed. Station locations for pier-rock vane structures and for pier only structures may be adjusted at the time of construction. After construction an as-built survey will be completed and certified by the engineer. All of the plans for this project will be kept on file at the Morrison SWCD office. If any issues arise during construction or after completion the Morrison SWCD will be the main point of contact for resolving issues.

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.

Morrison SWCD qualified technicians will be part of the pre-construction meeting making sure the timeline of the project will fall within recommended planting dates. During construction these same technicians will be onsite to make sure establishment guidelines are followed and erosion control measures are in place during construction and for long term success of the project. Our technicians have job approval authority to do this work through NRCS.

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.

Long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored will be the responsibility of the Morrison County Historical Society. If the site does not vegetate properly the Morrison SWCD will extend cost share and technical assistance until the site gets established.

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

If the project is funded the project manager will email the Conservation Corps to make them aware of the project and the restoration activities which could be completed by the Corps. We will invite them to submit a bid for the restoration components of the project.

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 Morrison SWCD will complete spot checks on the parcel year 1, 3, 5 and 9 after the project is installed and this information will be shared with the landowners. These spot checks will identify the condition of the restoration and what maintenance suggestions there are for the landowners. Spot checks are also an opportunity to connect technical staff with museum staff and to answer any additional questions they may have about their site or others.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [aeb03078-c36.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Engineered cross section which shows regrading with soil wraps and and toe stabilization....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Morrison SWCD Resolution	6b0b97c9-b71.docx

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Letter of Support - Morrison County	437b95cb-f50.pdf
Letter of Support - Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape	812cefc2-3b6.doc
Letter of Support - Initiative Foundation	b29c7386-a49.docx
Letter of Support - Historical Society	0b714bde-1d7.pdf
Engineers Preliminary Estimate	5f75642a-2f4.pdf
Letter of Support - Representative Ron Kresha	58b17374-f58.pdf
Engineered Details	545f5772-fc6.pdf
Letter of Support - City of Little Falls	0af2f35a-3da.pdf
Engineered Plans	eef0a066-63c.pdf
Charles A. Lindberg State Park Statutory Park Boundaries	a80561f8-47c.pdf
Letter of Support - DNR Fisheries	7443ab20-647.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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

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 design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

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?

No

