



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2014 Work Plan

Date of Report: January 31, 2014
Date of Next Status Update Report: January 1, 2015
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2017
Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Martin County Park and Natural Area Acquisition

Project Manager: Rich Perrine
Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.
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City/State/Zip Code: Sherburn, MN 56171
Telephone Number: 507-236-1965
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Web Address: foxlakeconservation.com

Location: Martin

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$435,000
	Amount Spent:	\$0
	Balance:	\$435,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 07e

Appropriation Language:

\$435,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. and Martin County to acquire approximately 40 acres in Martin County, including a ten-acre prairie remnant to be owned and managed by Martin County as part of its park system. A vegetation management plan must be developed and implemented and public access must be provided to the native prairie remnant. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2017, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Martin County Park and Natural Area Acquisition

II. PROJECT STATEMENT: This project will protect the only *Lespedeza leptostrachya* (Prairie Bush Clover) population that has been identified in Martin County. The Doyle VanderWert prairie remnant also holds the most diverse riparian, mesic and dry hillside prairie habitat remaining in the county. The site is vulnerable to conversion to other uses and non-native species are starting to encroach into the remnant from the edges. Doyle will donate the 3.7 acres enrolled in the CREP which is planted entirely with seed collected from his prairie remnant. He is finally willing to part with a total of 40 acres to make this project feasible. This project is needed now!

Acquisition of the 10 acre prairie remnant as a county natural area will protect it from land use change. Proper management of the remnant and establishing a native buffer around it will help to maintain its native plant diversity. Water quality improvement is a goal to be achieved by planting some of the steepest highly erodible cropland along both sides of a 1/3 mile meandering stream segment to native vegetation, providing a buffer. Downstream of the project site, the land levels off and this unnamed tributary flows into Cedar Lake within ¼ mile.

Making the site available to the public will provide recreation and educational opportunities. The site is within approximately 2 miles of a public school which will allow it to be utilized for field trips.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of January 1, 2015:

Project Status as of July 1, 2015:

Project Status as of January 1, 2016:

Project Status as of July 1, 2016

Project Status as of January 1, 2017

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Acquisition of 10 acre prairie remnant and 30 acre buffer area

Description: The Fox Lake Conservation League (FLCL) with assistance from Martin SWCD will work with the current landowner to develop a purchase agreement that will work for the landowner as well as the project partners. Once that is achieved, the FLCL and project partners will complete the title work, the property boundary survey and finalize the purchase. After the purchase has been accomplished, the property will be transferred to Martin County, to be managed under the County Park System.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 405,500
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 405,500

Activity Completion Date: June 1, 2016

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Purchase the property - payment to the landowner	March 1, 2016	\$ 400,000
2. Acquisition expenses: title work, survey, legal fees, recording fees	June 1, 2016	\$ 5,500

Activity Status as of January 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Vegetation Management

Description: The FLCL will work with Martin SWCD and the County Park Board to develop a vegetation management plan for the entire 40 acre parcel. The plan will include the protection and maintenance of the existing prairie remnant. It will incorporate integrated pest management strategies to reduce and eliminate invasive species threats to the remnant and the surrounding buffer area, while minimizing impacts to the environment. The plan will include a timeline for expanding the buffer around the remnant using plant materials originating from the remnant and other remnants located within a few miles of the site.

Initial project work will include invasive species removal from the edges of the prairie remnant and scattered treatments within the remnant. The use of chemicals will be minimized to the extent possible. Chemicals labeled for use near water will be selected and application will be timed to minimize impacts to native species while maximizing effectiveness on target species. As invasive species are removed from the remnant, seed and propagated plants originating from the remnant will be used to replace them. As the edges of the remnant are treated and planted, adjacent areas will be seeded with the remnant providing the source of most of the seed. The balance of the plant materials will come from nearby native plant populations.

The FLCL and Trimont Conservation Club intend to provide the cash and primarily in-kind match to accomplish most of the vegetation management activity which is estimated at approximately \$25,000. Only the initial phases of the plan will be implemented as a part of this project. Future work on expanding the buffer of restored prairie will continue over several years as local source native plant materials become available to plant the additional buffer area.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 5,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 5,000

Activity Completion Date: June 30, 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
2. Remove non-native species/invasive species	June 15, 2017	\$ 2,500
3. Establish local ecotype native species	June 30, 2017	\$ 2,500

Activity Status as of January 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of July 1,2015:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 3: Develop and begin implementation of a plan for access, trails and management of the park

Description: A plan will be developed for the access, parking area and trail infrastructure within the 40 acre parcel. Matching funds from FLCL (up to \$20,000) will be used to complete the initial installation of the planned infrastructure. An educational component includes the use of interpretive signage to identify native plant species growing adjacent to the trail. The plan will outline the maintenance needs and the sequence of additional infrastructure work to be completed following the grant period. The vegetation management plan will be a major integral component of this overall park plan.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 24,500
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 24,500

Activity Completion Date: June 15, 2017

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Install a public access, parking area and an interpretive trail	June 15, 2017	\$ 24,500

Activity Status as of January 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2015:

Activity Status as of: January 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of July 1, 2016:

Activity Status as of January 1, 2017

Final Report Summary:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: The Martin County Park Board will provide project leadership at monthly meetings, and report project progress to the County Board and the community. The County Park Brochure will be updated to include the new prairie parcel and acknowledgement of the funding source that provided it. This brochure, which includes a general county map, is provided in public displays throughout the community, in gas stations, restaurants and many other business establishments and offices. The project will also be featured as a new destination on the County Parks section of the Martin County website.

Information on project progress will be reviewed monthly during FLCL regular meetings. The project will be highlighted at the FLCL annual meetings throughout the project period as well as at their fall banquets and other events where they have a presence.

The project will be featured in the Martin SWCD Conservation Update publications twice a year and project progress will be reviewed at monthly SWCD Board meetings. The project will be featured regularly on weekly local conservation radio programs. The project will be tracked on the Fox Lake Conservation League website: foxlakeconservation.com and the Martin SWCD website: martinswcd.net

Martin SWCD currently announces a "First Rite of Spring" celebration with a tour of Pasque Flower sites usually about the first weekend in April. This site will be used to host this event and other events throughout the year to

feature some of the other unique plants like the American Bittersweet that is at its brightest even as the last Fall color is fading out on the prairie.

Status as of January 1, 2015:

Status as of July 1, 2015:

Status as of January 1, 2016:

Status as of July 1, 2016:

Status as of January 1, 2017:

Final Report Summary:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget Overview:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:	\$ 24,500	Construction firm or Martin County Highway Department. to install public access and trails.
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 5,000	Chemical for weed control, seed, plants
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 400,000	Purchase 40 acres for Martin County (Parks)
Professional Services for Fee Title Acquisition:	\$ 5,500	Legal services, abstractor services, surveyor, recording.
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 435,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: N/A

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
FLCL, Inc. and Trimont Club (Cash Support)	\$ 20,000	\$ 0.0	Infrastructure, restoration activities, mileage, administrative and general office expense support, signage.
FLCL, Inc. and project partners (In-Kind Support)	\$ 20,000	\$ 0.0	Weed control, seed, seed collection, seeding, signage
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 40,000	\$ 0.00	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

Project Partners Not Receiving Funds:

- Martin County Park Board: Providing planning assistance and voluntary assistance with restoration work.
- Martin County West High School Students: Providing voluntary assistance with native seed collection.
- Galena 4-H Club: Providing voluntary assistance with weed control, native seed collection and planting.
- Trimont Conservation Club: Providing voluntary assistance and some funding for restoration work.
- Martin SWCD: Providing assistance with project administration, planning and restoration work.

Project Partners Receiving Funds:

- Martin County Surveyor: \$ 3,500 to provide registered survey of the parcel proposed for acquisition.
- Martin County Attorney: \$ 1,000 to provide legal support for acquisition process.
- Abstract Company TBD by bid process: \$ 1,000 for Title review, update and recording.
- Martin County Highway Department or private contractor – TBD: \$ 24,500 for access and trails.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

This project will protect a diverse population of mesic to dry prairie species and provide a buffer to the native population, expanding the existing habitat over a larger area. The purchase of this parcel will provide the opportunity to protect and expand local ecotype populations of a diverse range of rare to threatened and endangered prairie species. In order to accomplish the goal of protecting this unique and locally endangered habitat, it will take intensive management to eliminate invasive species that are starting to encroach on the parcel from the edges and and to prevent introduction from outside populations. The management plan to be developed as a part of this project, will outline the need for careful diligence in implementing the long term management necessary to protect this parcel for future generations to enjoy.

C. Spending History: N/A

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: See attached Acquisition/Restoration List.

IX. VISUAL ELEMENT or MAP(S): See attached maps

X. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS WORKSHEET:

XI. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted no later than [January 1, 2015], [July 1, 2015], [January 1, 2016], [July 1, 2016], and [January 1, 2017]. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2017.



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M.L. 2014 Project Budget											
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Project Manager: Rich Perrine											
Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.											
M.L. 2014 ENRTF Appropriation: \$435,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2017											
Date of Report: January 31, 2014											

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 1 Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 2 Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Activity 3 Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	Acquisition of Prairie Remnant and Buffer			Vegetation Management			Develop and Implement Park Plan				
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts											
Martin County Highway Department or Contractor TBD (competetive bid): To install access, improve parking area and install trails.							\$24,500	\$0	\$24,500		\$24,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies											
Chemical, hand shears, hand saws, gloves for control of weeds including invasive species.				\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500					\$2,500
Local ecotype native seed and plants.				\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500					\$2,500
Fee Title Acquisition											
1 parcel, 40 acres to be purchased by the Fox Lake Conservation Leage. The title will be transferred to Martin County for addition the the County Park System.	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000								\$400,000
Professional Services for Fee Title Acquisition											
Title work / abstract services (competetive bid), boundary survey and legal services, one time and recording expenses twice.	\$5,500	\$0	\$5,500								\$5,500
COLUMN TOTAL	\$405,500	\$0	\$405,500	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$24,500	\$0	\$24,500	\$435,000	\$435,000

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2014 Acquisition/Restoration List

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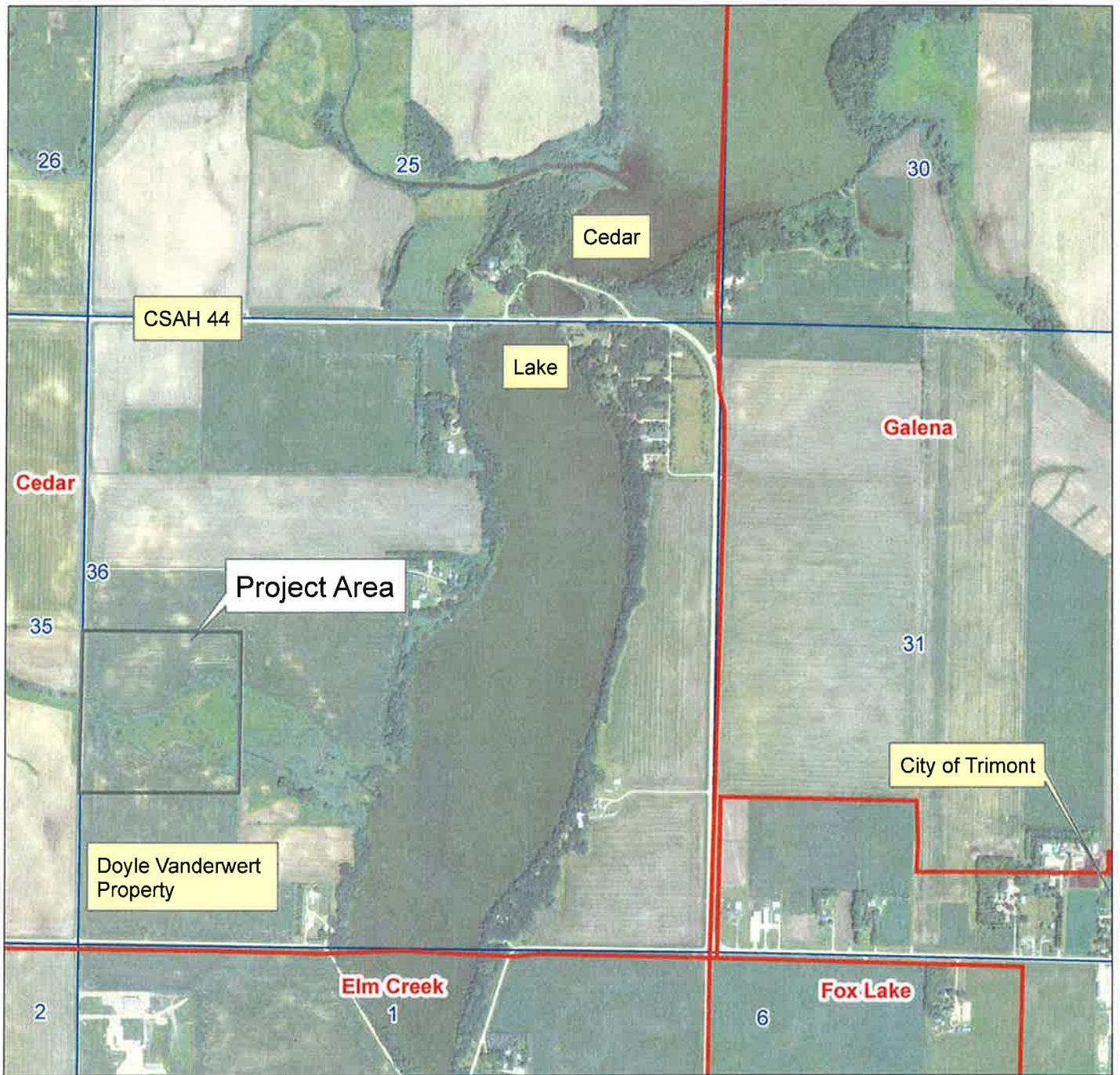
M.L. 2014 ENRTF Appropriation: \$435,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 3 Years, June 30, 2017

Date of Report: January 31, 2014

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Ecological Significance	Activity Description	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	Doyle VanderWert	43° 46' 0.458" N	94° 45' 0.119" W	\$405,500	N/A	Martin	Native prairie with Federal Threatened, State Endangered Species: Prairie Bush Clover (<i>Lsepedeza leptostachya</i>)	Fee title acquisition	40	none	private individual	Martin County (Parks)	engaged in landowner negotiations
NOTES:													

VanderWert Scientific and Natural Area and County Park



- Civil Townships
- Sections

