



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition

Laws of Minnesota 2016 Final Report

General Information

Date: 07/26/2025

Project Title: Martin County/Fox Lake DNR WMA Acquisition

Funds Recommended: \$1,000,000

Legislative Citation: ML 2016, Ch. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 2(c)

Appropriation Language: \$1,000,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc. to acquire land in fee and restore strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other wildlife habitat for wildlife management area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Doug Hartke

Title:

Organization: Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.

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Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Martin.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

Prairie

Activity types:

Protect in Fee

Restore

Enhance

Priority resources addressed by activity:

Wetlands

Prairie

Habitat

Narrative

Summary of Accomplishments

This is our first parcel purchased and restored with LSOHC grant dollars. The Lorenz parcel was added to the Caron WMA. this parcel made the Caron WMA 580 acres now with continuous undisturbed habitat with this addition.

Process & Methods

The Fox Lake Conservation League (FLCL) worked with the MN DNR to identify this parcel to acquire. The parcel went through the MN DNR LAM Staff and received all necessary approvals to acquire. We then worked with the Conservation Fund (TCF) as the family wanted to sell immediately. TCF purchased from the estate and then FLCL purchased from TCF. FLCL hired appraisal, land survey crews, and purchased this from a willing land owner. This parcel was previously cropland and wetland restoration and grassland restoration plans were completed. We worked with DNR Staff, and USFWS private lands biologist to develop the full plan. DNR Staff selected forbs and grassland seeds to plant on the restoration. This land was then conveyed to the MN DNR with FLCL paying all real estate taxes during the 4 year restoration. The parcel is now part of the Caron WMA and long term management will be completed by the MN DNR.

How did the program address habitats of significant value for wildlife species of greatest conservation need, threatened or endangered species, and/or list targeted species?

This previously farmed parcel was seeded using the most diverse mix of native grasses, forbs and sedges while targeting those species to their correct landscape position. A mesic mix used, comprised of over 60 different species. While no threatened or endangered species were identified on the parcel, the prairie restoration and the increased overall grassland on the landscape in and around the Caron WMA will no doubt benefit grassland birds which are in decline.

How did the program use science-based targeting that leveraged or expanded corridors and complexes, reduced fragmentation, or protected areas in the MN County Biological Survey.

The Caron WMA is one of the largest grassland and wetland complexes in Martin County. This acquisition added an additional 139 acres to the Caron WMA increasing the footprint of the WMA by about 30%. This strategic acquisition now provides over 580 acres of continuous undisturbed habitat. This parcel meets the goals of existing plans that the MN DNR has such as the Pheasant, Duck, and Deer Plans.

Explain Partners, Supporters, & Opposition

Our primary partner on this acquisition has been the MN DNR staff who assisted with the acquisition and development of the parcel. Also on this acquisition, we partnered with the USFWS private lands biologist through the Private Land Program to develop the wetland restoration plan. This provided a cost savings so we did not have to hire an engineer to develop the plan. The USFWS also provided construction management for this project. Fox Lake Conservation League volunteers and the MN DNR Staff completed the seeding of the parcel. The Martin County Board of Commissioners supports the strategic acquisition of land in the county with little opposition.

Exceptional challenges, expectations, failures, opportunities, or unique aspects of program

While overall wetness during 2018 and 2019 complicated the restoration, we overcame those challenges and completed the restoration work. The pipeline that runs through this parcel added some challenges to the wetland and oxbow restorations.

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this program?

N/A

What is the plan to sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

Future management will be by MN DNR staff. They will manage the parcel with prescribed fire to manage the prairie and wetlands. Any woody encroachment into the prairie will be managed by contract removal.

Budget

Totals

Item	Requested	AP Amount	Spent	Leverage	Received Leverage	Leverage Source	Original Total	Final Total
Personnel	\$3,500	-	-	-	\$4,000	FOX LAKE CONSERVATION LEAGUE INC	\$3,500	\$4,000
Contracts	\$18,300	\$35,400	\$36,400	-	-	-	\$18,300	\$36,400
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$925,000	\$909,700	\$912,600	-	\$19,300	FOX LAKE CONSERVATION LEAGUE INC.	\$925,000	\$931,900
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel	\$2,500	-	-	-	-	-	\$2,500	-
Professional Services	\$5,500	\$3,900	-	-	-	-	\$5,500	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	-	-	-	\$6,000	\$6,000
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	\$29,300	\$44,000	\$44,000	-	\$28,000	FOX LAKE CONSERVATION LEAGUE INC.	\$29,300	\$72,000
DNR IDP	\$9,900	\$1,000	\$1,000	-	-	-	\$9,900	\$1,000
Grand Total	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$51,300	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,051,300

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Amount Spent	Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Grant Administration	0.05	3.0	-	\$4,000	FOX LAKE CONSERVATION LEAGUE INC	\$4,000
Plan development and oversight	0.02	3.0	-	-	-	-

Explain any budget challenges or successes:
juggling the budgets at the end was difficult.

Total Revenue: \$0

Revenue Spent: \$0

Revenue Balance: \$0

Of the money disclosed above, what are the appropriate uses of the money:

E. This is not applicable as there was no revenue generated.

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Acres (AP)	Total Acres (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	35	35	15	15	0	0	89	89	139	139
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	35	35	15	15	0	0	89	89	139	139

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland (AP)	Wetland (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	Forest (AP)	Forest (Final)	Habitat (AP)	Habitat (Final)	Total Funding (AP)	Total Funding (Final)
Restore	\$17,500	\$17,500	\$7,500	\$7,500	-	-	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$232,900	\$232,900	\$99,800	\$99,800	-	-	\$592,300	\$592,300	\$925,000	\$925,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$250,400	\$250,400	\$107,300	\$107,300	-	-	\$642,300	\$642,300	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	139	0	0	139	139
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	139	139	0	0	139	139

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro / Urban (AP)	Metro / Urban (Final)	Forest / Prairie (AP)	Forest / Prairie (Final)	SE Forest (AP)	SE Forest (Final)	Prairie (AP)	Prairie (Final)	N. Forest (AP)	N. Forest (Final)	Total (AP)	Total (Final)
Restore	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$75,000	\$75,000	-	-	\$75,000	\$75,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$925,000	\$925,000	-	-	\$925,000	\$925,000
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

1500 Feet

Explain the success/shortage of acre goals

our project should be on target

Outcomes

Programs in prairie region:

Protected, restored, and enhanced habitat for migratory and unique Minnesota species ~ *Our land acquisition and restoration program is managed by the MN DNR wildlife managers.*

Parcels

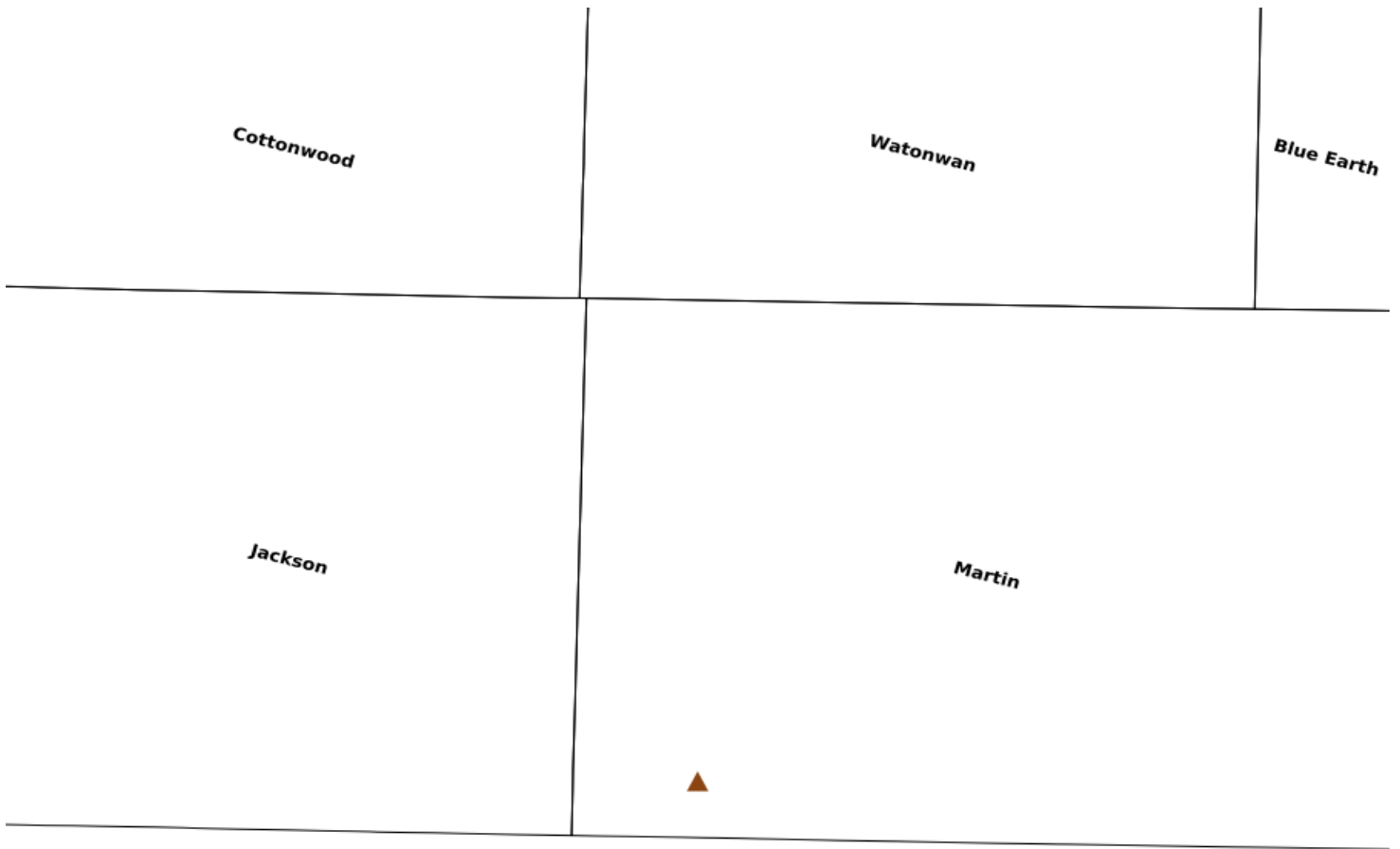
Sign-up Criteria?

[Yes - Sign up criteria is attached](#)

Fee Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection
Caron WMA #1	Martin	10133123	139	\$1,000,000	No

Parcel Map



0 2 4 6 mi

- Protect in Easement
- ▲ Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- ★ Restore
- ✕ Enhance
- ✚ Other