

M.L. 2006 Projects Completed 2011-2012

MN Laws 2006, Chapter 243, Section 20

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M.L. 2006 Projects

MN Laws 2006, Chapter 243, Section 19 & Section 20 (beginning July 1, 2006)

NOTE: Below is a short abstract for a project funded during the 2006 Legislative Session ending during 2011-2012. The final date of completion for these projects is listed at the end of the abstract. Final Reports for all completed projects are available at <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/projects/2006-index.html> or by contacting the LCCMR office.

Subd. 08 Land Exchange Revolving Fund for Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing Counties

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Land Exchange Revolving Fund for Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing Counties

Section 20, Subd. 08 \$290,000

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Overall Project Outcome and Results:

In 2006, an inter-county revolving loan fund was established for the benefit of Aitkin, Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The objective of this fund was to improve public and private land-ownership patterns, which will increase public management efficiency, protect critical habitat, and reduce public service expenditures to isolated parcels; without reducing the local tax base.

Under this program, the Counties purchased privately owned parcels that met certain project criteria. Tax forfeited land, of substantially equal value and better suited to private ownership, was sold to replenish the fund; resulting in the public/private land ownership base remaining stable.

A total of 174.6 acres of land plus a lot were purchased solving many easement issues and consolidating public ownership so that public service expenditures to these parcels would not exist.

During this process, land values dropped because of the recession which made it harder to recoup the funds from land sales. Parcels were put up for sale, but did not sell because of the economy. Purchases of recreational property was no longer a priority, when homes were being lost and people weren't sure about the future of their jobs.

Another item that caused some problems, was that as funds from the account were used, sometimes larger parcels were unable to be purchased as there was not enough in the account for purchase. Exchanges were not as favorably looked at as when a county parcel was exchanged, people thought that

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everyone should have the opportunity to purchase the parcel, not just the person doing the exchange.

Overall, the process was a good process. It gave counties the opportunity to cure problem parcels with a ready cash fund. No access properties, wetland properties that should not be developed, and recreational opportunities were all developed with a 'no cash out of the general fund' opportunity.

Project completed: 6/30/2011