

M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.5 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2014

Project Title: MeCC VI - Aquatic Management Area Acquisition (3.5)

Project Manager: Rick Walsh

Affiliation: MN DNR

Address: 500 Lafayette Rd, Box 20

City: St Paul **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55155

Telephone Number: (651) 259-5232

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WEBSITE: www.mn.dnr.gov

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.5

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This appropriation provided funding to acquire land in fee title within the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership (MeCC) areas. It focused on habitat linkage projects along the Vermillion River in southern Dakota County that have the following characteristics: high risk of development, angler access, environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, and access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. Parcels acquired will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). This funding also supported the finalization of three parcels acquired with a previous MeCC appropriation, but for which professional services bills were still needed. A total of \$8,080 was spent on completion of the three previously acquired parcels. The remaining \$292,000 was spent on acquisition of two additional parcels for the Vermillion River AMA. These two parcels closed in late 2013 and added 114 acres of land which provide permanent protection and public hunting, fishing, and trapping along almost 11,000 feet of stream. The AMA now consists of 450 acres and 27,650 feet (over 5 miles) of stream. The Vermillion River is known for production of large brown trout and is a popular angler destination. The acquisition of these two parcels relied on other public funding in addition to this appropriation. Dakota County contributed \$40,000 and another \$108,600 came largely from a 2011 Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation to DNR. Both of the new sites have been surveyed and the boundaries posted in time for the 2014 trout opener. Costs for boundary posting and other initial development were paid from other DNR budgets.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

A press release announcing the two new parcels was issued in early April 2014:

<http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2014/04/08/dnr-adds-2-miles-metro-trout-fishing-opportunities-along-vermillion-2/>. The story was picked up by at least two local media outlets – [CBS Minnesota](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/) (<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/>) and [Pioneer Press](http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/) (<http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/>). In addition to this news release and subsequent stories, information about these and other AMA recreation opportunities is published on the [DNR Recreation Compass](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html) (<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/compass.html>) on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov.



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Final Report**

Date of Report: 8/15/2014
Date of Next Status Update: Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: 9/28/2012
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** N

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Email Address: rick.walsh@state.mn.us

Web Address: www.mndnr.gov

Location:

Counties Impacted: Dakota, Scott, Carver, Goodhue, Washington, and Chisago

Ecological Section Impacted: Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	300,000
	Amount Spent \$:	299,959
	Balance \$:	41

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 04i3.5

Appropriation Language:

\$1,737,000 the first year and \$1,738,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the acceleration of agency programs and cooperative agreements. Of this appropriation, \$150,000 the first year and \$150,000 the second year are to the commissioner of natural resources for agency programs and \$3,175,000 is for the agreements as follows: \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year with Friends of the Mississippi River; \$517,000 the first year and \$518,000 the second year with Dakota County; \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year with Great River Greening; \$220,000 the first year and \$220,000 the second year with Minnesota Land Trust; \$300,000 the first year and \$300,000 the second year with Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; and \$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year with The Trust for Public Land for planning, restoring, and protecting priority natural areas in the metropolitan area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding counties, through contracted services, technical assistance, conservation easements, and fee title acquisition. Land acquired with this appropriation must be sufficiently improved to meet at least minimum management standards, as determined by the commissioner of natural resources. Expenditures are limited to the identified project corridor areas as defined in the work program. This appropriation may not be used for the purchase of habitable residential structures, unless expressly approved in the work program. All conservation easements must be perpetual and have a natural resource management plan. Any land acquired in fee title by the commissioner of natural resources with money from this appropriation must be designated as an outdoor recreation unit under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.07. The commissioner may similarly designate any lands acquired in less than fee title. A list of proposed restorations and fee title and easement acquisitions must be provided as part of the required work program. An entity that acquires a conservation easement with appropriations from the trust fund must have a long-term stewardship plan for the easement and a fund established for monitoring and enforcing the agreement. Money appropriated from the trust fund for easement acquisition may be used to establish a monitoring, management, and enforcement fund as approved in the work program. An annual financial report is required for any monitoring, management, and enforcement fund established, including expenditures from the fund. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2014, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT TITLE: MeCC 6 – 3.5 – DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition

II. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Overall Project Outcome and Results

This appropriation provided funding to acquire land in fee title within the Metro Conservation Corridors Partnership (MeCC) areas. It focused on habitat linkage projects along the Vermillion River in southern Dakota County that have the following characteristics: high risk of development, angler access, environmental protection of the shoreline and riparian zone, and access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to do habitat improvement projects. Parcels acquired will be managed as Aquatic Management Areas (AMA). This funding also supported the finalization of three parcels acquired with a previous MeCC appropriation, but for which professional services bills were still needed. A total of \$8,080 was spent on completion of the three previously acquired parcels. The remaining \$292,000 was spent on acquisition of two additional parcels for the Vermillion River AMA. These two parcels closed in late 2013 and added 114 acres of land which provide permanent protection and public hunting, fishing, and trapping along almost 11,000 feet of stream. The AMA now consists of 450 acres and 27,650 feet (over 5 miles) of stream. The Vermillion River is known for production of large brown trout and is a popular angler destination. The acquisition of these two parcels relied on other public funding in addition to this appropriation. Dakota County contributed \$40,000 and another \$108,600 came largely from a 2011 Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation to DNR. Both of the new sites have been surveyed and the boundaries posted in time for the 2014 trout opener. Costs for boundary posting and other initial development were paid from other DNR budgets.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

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III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of Feb 1, 2012. Work on this project has been 1)finalizing two acquisitions in Dakota County that were funded with previous MeCC appropriations, but still have some final details to wrap up. 2) Initiating acquisition of a 50-acre parcel to be added to the Vermillion River AMA that will protect 4,100 feet of stream and adjoins the existing Vermillion River WMA/AMA.

Project Status as of Aug 1, 2012. Work on this project has been 1) Progressing with acquisition (a purchase option has been signed) of a 50-acre parcel to be added to the Vermillion River AMA that will protect 4,100 feet of stream and adjoins the existing Vermillion River WMA/AMA. 2) Finalizing AMA acquisitions in Dakota County that were funded with previous MeCC appropriations, but still have some final costs to be paid for such as recording, abstracting fees, taxes, and final AGO title opinion.

Amendment Request (9/11/12)

Amendments to this work plan are being requested to shift funding to the Professional Services for Acquisition budget category, and to expand the scope of work into other MeCC counties in order to expand acquisition opportunities under Activity 1. Details are provided in following sections.

Project Status as of Feb 1, 2013. Work during this period has been 1) Continued efforts toward acquisition of a 50-acre parcel to be added to the Vermillion River AMA. This acquisition is being

surveyed and is under option; it is expected to close before 6/30/13. 2) Efforts toward acquisition of a 62-acre parcel on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. 3) Finalizing AMA acquisitions in Dakota County that were funded with previous MeCC appropriations.

Project Status as of Aug 1, 2013. Work during this period focused on wrapping up acquisition of a 50-acre parcel on the main stem of the Vermillion River and a 62-acre parcel on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. Both of these parcels are now under option and surveys have been completed. Funding has been encumbered for both, and transactions are expected to be finalized soon. Both acquisitions are partially funded by MeCC and partially by other state funds or partner funds. Since this budget has been exhausted, expenses for professional services and related costs are being borne by other state budgets. Minor amounts of time and funding were spent finalizing AMA acquisitions funded by previous MeCC grants.

Amendment Request (8/20/13). A change in budget is requested to move funding from the Initial Development budget item to Fee Title Acquisition and Professional Services budget items. The \$5,000 from Initial Development will be allocated \$2,200 to Fee Title Acquisition and \$2,800 to Professional Services (see Attachment A and Table A in Section VI). Initial development work such as parking lots and signing will still occur on these parcels as needed, but funding will be from other sources such as Legacy appropriations that also have one or more of these parcels listed in their work plans. Approved by the LCCMR 8-22-2013.

Project Status as of Feb 1, 2014. Both of the remaining parcels being acquired with this funding closed in this period. These are a 50-acre parcel on the main stem of the Vermillion River and a 62 acre parcel on the South Branch of the Vermillion River. Both acquisitions are partially funded by MeCC money. Since this budget has been exhausted, expenses for professional services and related costs are being borne by other state budgets.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Land Acquisition

Description: This project will secure fee title on approximately 35 acres, with 0.6 miles of shoreline, and leverage about 15 acres of acquisition through partner funds. Priority will be given to acquiring regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat that will both build on the existing shoreline habitat and provide angler access. This request includes \$30,000 for professional services to be used for appraisals, legal fees, surveys, environmental assessments, closings, etc. Approximately \$5,000 will be used to insure that all parcels meet minimum maintenance standards, including but not limited to signage and parking.

Projects will occur primarily on the Vermillion River in Dakota County, depending on priorities, risk of development, and potential partners. Currently, there is one new acquisition in Dakota County being pursued with this funding, and one other potential. Should opportunities arise within the MeCC in other counties that will enable timely and appropriate use of funds, these may be substituted if Dakota County projects are lacking. Specific projects will be amended onto this plan in Part VIII – Acquisition List. Collaborative partnerships will be promoted in order to acquire key lands. Project money is expected to generate additional non-state funded acres and shoreline miles, for a grand total of 50 acres and 0.8 miles of critical shoreline habitat.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 300,000
Amount Spent: \$ 299,959
Balance: \$ 41

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. This project will have secured fee title on approximately 35 acres, with 0.6 miles of shoreline, and have leveraged about 15 acres of acquisition through partner funds.	June 30, 2014	\$ 300,000

Activity Status as of Feb 1, 2012 Spending to date has amounted to \$5,897. This had been for an appraisal on a prospective new parcel for the Vermillion River AMA, and for expenses such as recording fees, abstracting fees, and Attorney General Office staff time associated with two Vermillion River AMA parcels acquired with funds previously appropriated to the MeCC project.

Activity Status as of Aug 1, 2012. Spending to date has amounted to \$20,862. This has been for two appraisals, professional services on a prospective new parcel for the Vermillion River AMA, and costs such as recording fees, abstracting fees, deed or property taxes, and Attorney General Office staff time associated with four Vermillion River AMA parcels acquired or pursued with funds previously appropriated to the MeCC project. The following table provides details on spending to date.

Acquisition name	Appraisal charge	Recording fee Abstracting fee	Deed/Property tax	AGO/LAM staff time
Vermillion River P2A				\$42
Vermillion River P8		\$263	\$739	\$4,180
Vermillion River P9	\$3,794 & \$6,250			\$3,362
Vermillion River P10		\$92	\$1,370	\$479
S. Branch Vermillion				\$291
Total	\$10,044	\$355	\$2,109	\$8,354

Two appraisals were needed because the initial appraisal relied on inadequate comparable sales. The first appraisal was certified since the dollar amount was below the threshold that requires a technical review. An administrative review was conducted, but this type of review typically will not catch the types of problems that later became evident in the comparable sales.

Activity Status as of Feb 1, 2013. Spending to date has amounted to \$25,918. The \$5,057 spent during this period is summarized in the table below.

Acquisition name	Appraisal charge	Recording fee Abstracting fee	Deed/Property tax	AGO/LAM staff time
Vermillion River P2A				\$42
Vermillion River P8			\$747	
Vermillion River P9				\$3,313
Vermillion River P10				
S. Branch Vermillion				\$955
Total			\$747	\$4,310

Activity Status as of Aug 1, 2013. Spending to date from this appropriation has amounted to \$299,959. The \$274,041 spent during this period is summarized in the table below. Spending from other state budgets has occurred to augment this budget since it has been exhausted (see Table B in Section VI). Ongoing spending for completion of acquisitions and initial development will also be from other state budgets.

Acquisition name	Land Payment	Recording fee Abstracting fee	Deed/Property tax	AGO/LAM staff time
Vermillion River P2A				
Vermillion River P8				\$84
Vermillion River P9				\$3,569
Vermillion River P10	\$95,000			\$208
S. Branch Vermillion	\$172,2000			\$2,980
Total	\$267,200			\$6,841

Activity Status as of Feb 1, 2014. No spending occurred from this appropriation in this time period. Ongoing spending for completion of acquisitions and initial development has been from other state budgets.

Final Report Summary: Two more parcels for the Vermillion River AMA were acquired with this funding. These parcels added 114 acres and 11,000 feet of stream to the area protected in this AMA. Money from Dakota County and the Outdoor Heritage Fund augmented this funding to make the acquisitions possible. Other DNR funds were used for initial development and posting. The new parcels were acquired in late 2013 and were open for public use by the 2014 trout opener.

Some of this funding (\$8,000) was used to pay for professional services related to the finalization of three other Vermillion River AMA parcels acquired with prior MeCC appropriations. These parcels are also now open for public use.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Accomplishment will be reported through DNR press releases, and acquisitions will be added to Statewide PRIM maps and the [DNR Recreation Compass](#). Acquired parcels will also be found on DNR's website at www.mndnr.gov and at the HCP website www.mnhabitatcorridors.org.

Status as of Feb 1, 2012. No results to date.

Status as of Aug 1, 2012. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above.

Status as of Feb 1, 2013. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above.

Status as of Aug 1, 2013. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above.

Status as of Feb 1, 2014. No results to date. As parcels are acquired in the near future, results will be disseminated via the means described above. A spring news release is planned to coincide with trout opener.

Final Report Summary: A press release announcing the two new parcels was issued in early April 2014. Here is a link to that: <http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2014/04/08/dnr-adds-2-miles-metro-trout-fishing-opportunities-along-vermillion-2/>. The story was picked up by at least two local media outlets. Here are links to those stories by [CBS Minnesota](http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/) (<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2014/04/09/dnr-expands-trout-fishing-along-vermillion-river/>) and [Pioneer Press](http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/) (<http://blogs.twincities.com/outdoors/2014/04/10/minnesota-stream-trout-fishing-new-vermillion-river-properties-acquired/>). In addition to this news release and subsequent stories, information about these

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VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A total of \$10,000 was shifted from Fee Title Acquisition to Professional Services for Acquisition because AGO and LAM staff time have exceeded expectations, and because a second appraisal was necessary for parcel 9 of the Vermillion River AMA as explained previously.

A total of \$200,000 was added to the projection of other State funds to be used in the acquisition of these parcels. If acquired, the Sunrise Lake AMA and the South Branch Vermillion River AMA will rely on OHF funding as well as this funding.

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Fee Title Acquisition:	\$267,200	Fee title Acquisition on Vermillion River Watershed
Professional Services for Acq:	\$32,800	Lands & Minerals, AGs Office, Survey, etc.
Initial Development	\$0	Minimum Maintenance Standards
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 300,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: NA

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: NA

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: NA

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,000	Fee Title Acquisition
State			
	\$ 280,000	\$ <u>108,600</u>	Fee Title Acquisition, Survey, Lands & Minerals, AGs Office, Appraisal review, Initial develop.
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 330,000	\$ <u>148,600</u>	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Dakota County and local fundraising for non-state funding. Bonding or OHF for other potential State funding.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: The Vermillion River is one of the last remaining trout streams in the Seven County core Metropolitan Area and provides quality fishing for brown trout, where anglers are able to access the river. The Vermillion River AMA/WMA complex provides a large hunting/angling area within a 30 minute drive of downtown St. Paul. The complex provides recreation on nearly 4,000 acres, with 3.75 miles of troutstream, acquired in part with ENRTF dollars. The plan is to build on this complex as long as there is still quality habitat available, and provide a legacy that will forever be appreciated by future anglers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF	570,000	672,000	650,000	600,000	100,000
Bonding	1,050,000		1,000,000		500,000
OHF				5,748,000	1,775,000

VIII. ACQUISITION LIST:

Amendment Request (9/11/12)

Two additional parcels for the Vermillion River AMA that were pursued with MeCC funding have been added so they are eligible for payment of some final costs. One additional parcel (Sunrise Lake AMA) in Chisago County was added to capture additional opportunity for acquisition within the MeCC area.

AMA Name	Property Owner	Feet of Shoreline	Acres
Vermillion River AMA P9	Kamen	3,900	52
Vermillion River AMA P8	Petrofsky	3,400	32
S Br. Vermillion River AMA P1	Kasel	6,500	62
Vermillion River AMA	Additional Parcels as Available		
Vermillion River AMA P10	Kamen	3,030	31
Vermillion River AMA P2A&B	Otting	1,820	8
Sunrise Lake AMA	Loeffler	6,600	46

IX. MAP(S): See attached

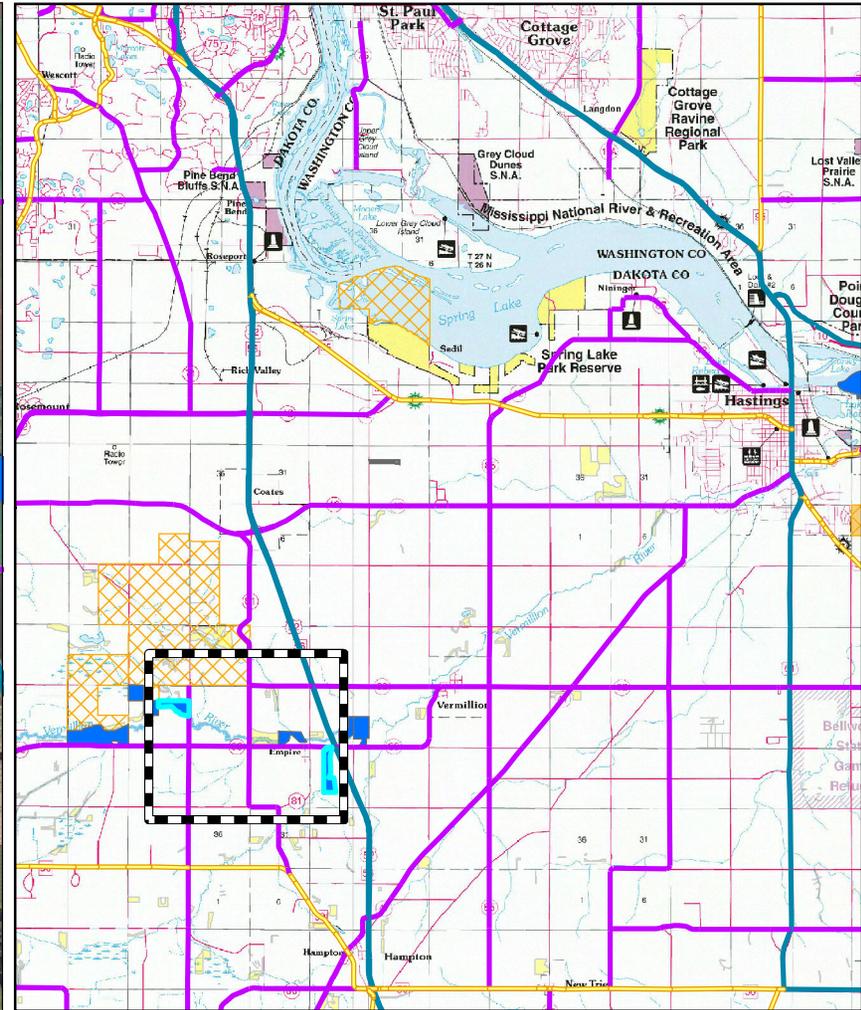
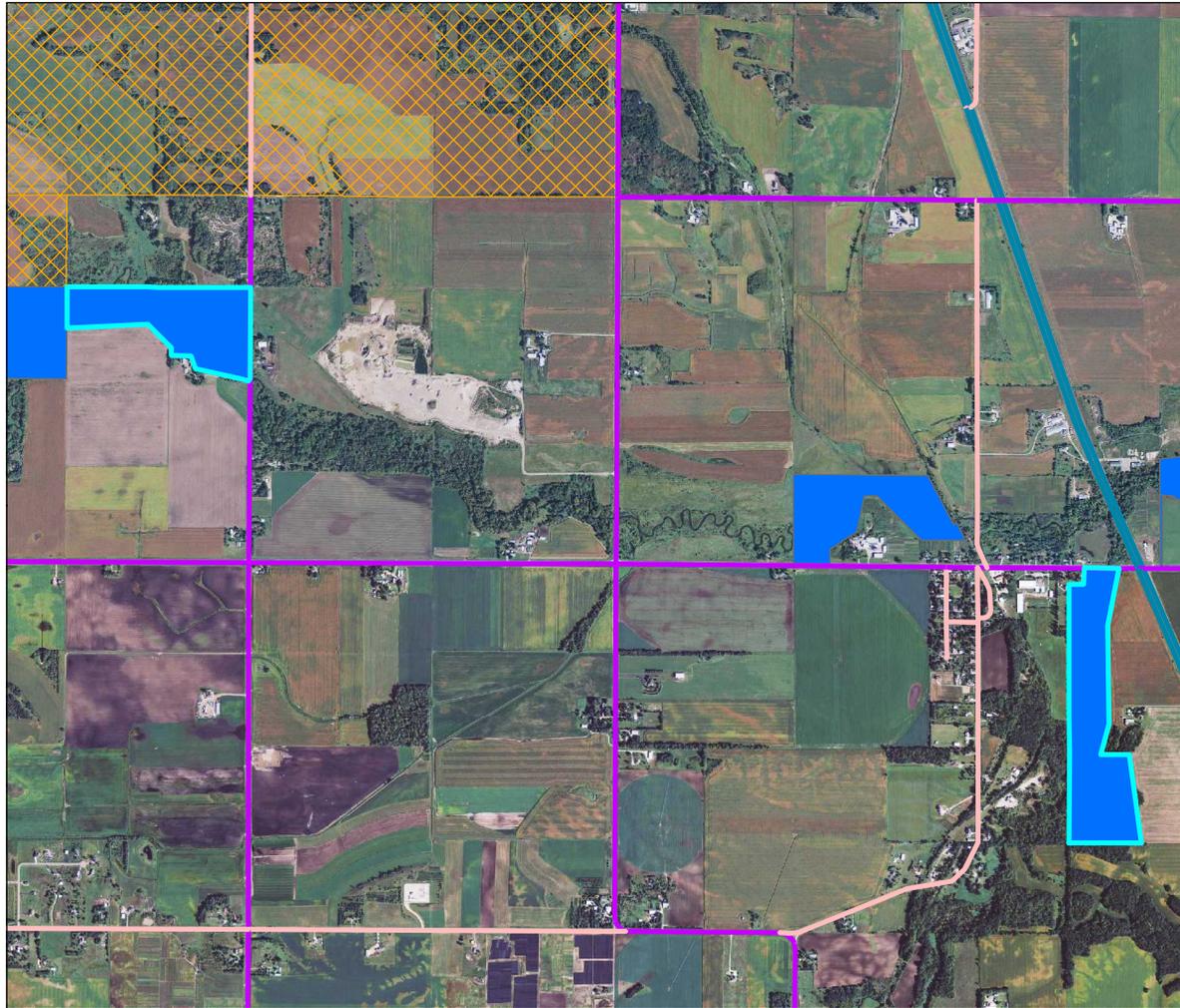
X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: NA

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than Feb 1, 2012, Aug 1, 2012, Feb 1, 2013, and Aug 1, 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Final Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects					
Project Title: MeCC 6 – 3.5 – DNR Aquatic Management Area Acquisition					
Legal Citation: Pending					
Project Manager: Rick Walsh					
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 300,000					
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014					
Date of Update: August 15, 2014					
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Revised Activity 1 Budget 8/2013	Amount Spent	Balance	Revised TOTAL BUDGET 8/20/13	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM					
Fee Title Acquisition	267,200	267,200	0	267,200	0
Professional Services for Acquisition	32,800	32,759	41	32,800	41
Initial Development	0	0	0	0	0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$300,000	\$299,959	\$41	\$300,000	\$41

Vermillion River AMA parcels funded by 2011 ENRTF



0 1,000 Feet

0 1 2 Miles

-  State Aquatic Management Areas
-  State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
-  Subject Properties

-  Interstate Trunk Highway
-  U.S. Trunk Highway
-  MN Trunk Highway
-  County Highway
-  Municipal Road
-  Township or Other Road

Note: This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries and other features but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. This map is provided for informational purposes only and may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.



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