

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

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Project Contact

Project name	Toe WMA Wetland Restoration	Project manager	Jan Voit
Organization name	Heron Lake Watershed District	Title	District Administrator
Organization type	Government	Phone	507-793-2462
Mailing address 1	P.O. Box 345	Email	jan.voit@mysmbs.com
Mailing address 2			
City	Heron Lake		
State	MN		
Zip code	56137		

Project Overview

Sites / Location

County name	Jackson
Project site name	Toe WMA
Total project sites	1
Total project acres	62

Land Ownership

Primary land ownership	State
Additional land ownerships	

Habitat

Primary habitat type	Wetland
Additional habitat types	

Activities

Primary activity	Enhancement
Additional activities	

ECP activities	Tile Breaks/Ditch Blocks, Upland Vegetation Enhancement, Water Level Control Structures
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Project Funding Summary

Total grant amount requested	\$21,661
Total match amount pledged	\$26,293
Additional funding amount	\$2,152
Total project cost	\$50,106

Project Summary

Have you ever received a CPL grant before? Yes

Project Location Summary

Primary county	Jackson	Primary land ownership	State
Project site name	Toe WMA		

Habitat and Activity Summary

Habitat type	Wetland	Total project sites	1
Primary activity	Enhancement	Total project acres	62

Site information

The Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD), in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) and the Jackson County Soil and Water Conservation District, seek funding to complete a 62-acre wetland enhancement project within the Toe Wildlife Management Area (Toe WMA) in rural Jackson County, a property used predominantly for public hunting and other outdoor recreation. Currently, the network of agricultural tile drains flowing through the site prevents the wetland from maintaining an adequate pool, negatively impacting habitat for wildlife and water quality and exacerbating flooding for downstream communities. Furthermore, less than 1% of the larger Heron Lake watershed's wetlands remain and this project will be an important step in further restoring this critical habitat and one of southwestern Minnesota's few remaining publicly-owned and accessible prairie pothole wetlands. In addition, the proposed project would include the restoration of vital native prairie and pollinator buffer habitat. The HLWD is currently partnering with landowners and other stakeholders to implement practices throughout the Heron Lake watershed to lessen the impact of flooding, improve water quality, enhance vegetative and wildlife habitat, and mitigate erosion, all key goals identified in the HLWD Watershed Management Plan. The Toe WMA consists of 240 acres and is located within the Judicial Ditch No. 19 (JD19) system, which flows to Heron Lake and then into the West Fork Des Moines River (WFDMR). The improvements outlined below will not only benefit habitat for species such as waterfowl, ring-necked pheasants, and monarchs, but also provide water quality benefits for fish and other wildlife dependent on Heron Lake and the WFDMR.

Methods

The project's primary goal is to ensure that the 62-acre wetland complex maintains adequate water levels to support wildlife habitat. As noted above, it is currently facing the threat of being dewatered because of existing tile lines moving water away from the site. To accomplish this, we will:

- Remove approximately 100 linear feet of tile and use two bulkheads to cap the existing tile line north of the berm to prevent seepage and water draining from the wetland.
- Construct a control structure outlet using PVC piping to allow for the slow release of water from the wetland into the tile drain system when levels are sufficient.
- Place a minimal amount of rip-rap around the outlet structure to stabilize the area and prevent future erosion.
- Clean excess sediment from the existing spillway structure to improve flow of water to the newly restored site.
- Utilize on-site soil to construct a berm, which will be used to keep water in the wetland on the north side of the complex.
- Replant the disturbed area and berm with a native prairie/pollinator seeding mix.

Additional construction equipment that will be needed to complete the project are an excavator, skid loader, scraper, and dump truck, all of which will be provided by the selected construction contractor. Preliminary engineering design for the project has already been completed and approved by the HLWD and its board. Construction contracts will be determined based upon costs and qualifications and will be bid out once funding is secured. The outlined work will do much to restore and enhance one of southwestern Minnesota's few remaining wetlands, supporting a wide array of wetland-dependent species as well as pollinators. In total, the proposed improvements will have measurable and meaningful benefits to habitat, water quality, and flood storage within the Toe WMA and the larger WFDNR watershed.

Need for funding

Current drainage law in Minnesota does not recognize habitat or water quality benefits in its cost/benefit ratio so projects that achieve multiple benefits beyond addressing storage concerns do not qualify for funding through drainage districts. However, the HLWD is eager to work with landowners and other local partners, such as the MNDNR, on projects further storage and habitat restoration goals for the region. As such, the HLWD is requesting support for the portions of this project that would not be completed without additional funding.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
June 2018	All necessary contracts and approvals finalized
August 2018	Improvement construction begins, with consideration given to avoiding nesting season.
Estimated project completion date	2018-10-31

Budget Information

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name	Jan Voit	Street address 1	P.O. Box 345
Title	District Administrator	Street address 2	
Email	jvoit@mysmbs.com	City	Heron Lake
Phone	507-793-2462	State	MN
		Zip Code	56137

Budget Details

Personnel

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title / work to be completed</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant/Match</u>	<u>In-kind/Cash</u>
Heron Lake Watershed District	Administration Costs	\$655	Grant	
Heron Lake Watershed District	Administration Costs	\$655	Match	Cash

Contracts

<u>Contractor Name</u>	<u>Contracted Work</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant/Match</u>	<u>In-kind/Cash</u>
Construction Company-TBD	All construction expenses	\$7,681	Grant	
Construction Company-TBD	All construction expenses	\$7,681	Match	Cash

Equipment/Tools/Supplies

<u>Item</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant/Match</u>	<u>In-kind/Cash</u>
water control structure	maintain adequate pool	\$1,400	Grant	
anti-seepage collar	prevent leakage	\$350	Grant	
construct berm	maintain water elevation	\$5,250	Grant	
riprap w/geotextile fabric	prevent erosion	\$434	Grant	
native seeding	prairie/pollinator habitat	\$2,835	Grant	
drop intake	water infiltration to wetland	\$391	Grant	
tile connections	control water to wetland	\$88	Grant	
clean spillway	remove sediment	\$875	Grant	
Remove tile line	100' of tile line removal	\$500	Grant	
24-inch agricultural tile	wetland outlet	\$2,132	Match	Cash
water control structure	maintain adequate pool	\$1,400	Match	Cash
anti-seepage collar	prevent leakage	\$350	Match	Cash

construct berm	maintain water elevation	\$5,250	Match	Cash
riprap w/geotextile fabric	prevent erosion	\$434	Match	Cash
native seeding	prairie/pollinator habitat	\$2,835	Match	Cash
drop intake	water infiltration to wetland	\$3,391	Match	Cash
tile connections	control water to wetland	\$88	Match	Cash
clean spillway	remove sediment	\$875	Match	Cash

Additional Budget Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Grant/Match</u>	<u>In-kind/Cash</u>
10% contingency costs	construction costs	\$1,202	Grant	
10% contingency costs	construction costs	\$1,202	Match	Cash

Additional Funding

Additional funding amount	\$2,152	Additional funding details topographic survey/improvement plans and specifications
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Budget Overview

Item Type	Grant	Match	Total
Personnel	\$655	\$655	\$1,310
Contracts	\$7,681	\$7,681	\$15,362
Travel (in-state)			
Professional Services			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$12,123	\$16,755	\$28,878
Additional Budget Items	\$1,202	\$1,202	\$2,404
Total:	\$21,661	\$26,293	\$47,954

Project Funding Summary

Total grant amount requested	\$21,661
Total match amount pledged	\$26,293
Additional funding amount	\$2,152
Total project cost	\$50,106

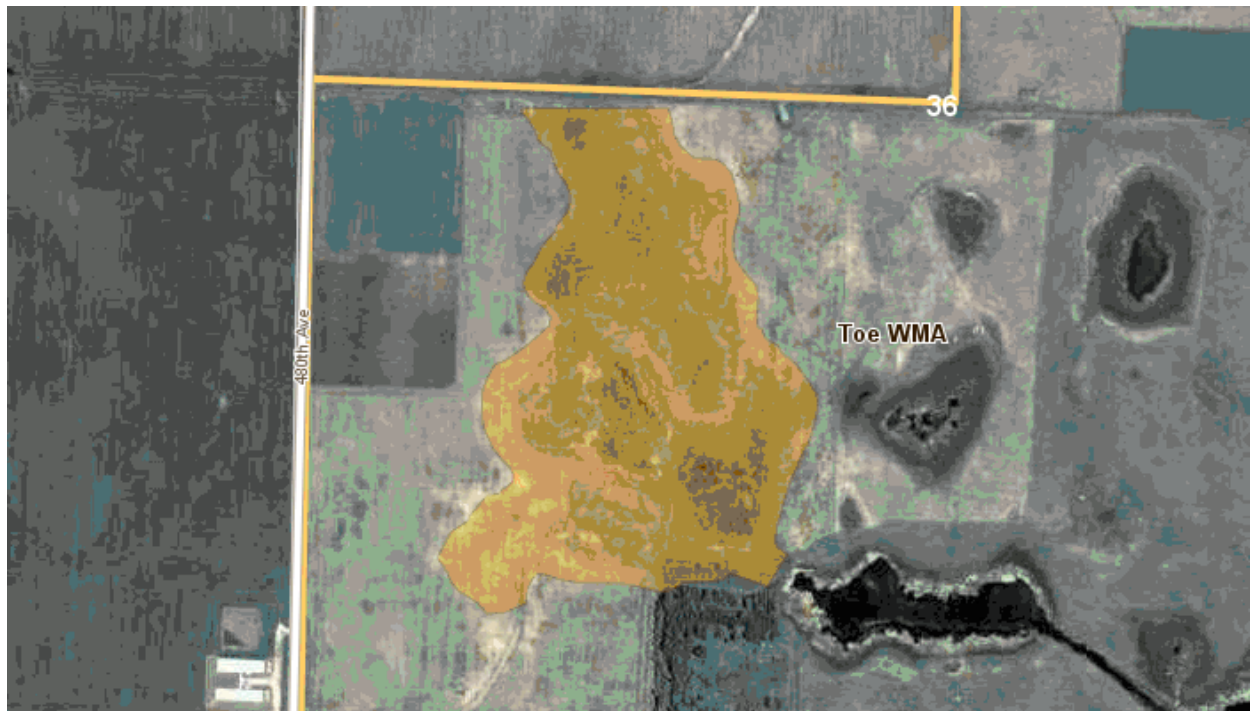
Site Information

Land Manager

Name **Chad August** Phone **507-831-2900**
Organization **Minnesota DNR** Email **chad.august@state.mn.us**
Title **DNR Assistant Area Manager**
Review and approval form **Im-approval_Toe_JD19_water_storage.pdf**

Site Information

Site name	Toe WMA		Tile Breaks/Ditch Blocks, Upland Vegetation Enhancement, Water Level Control Structures
Habitat	Wetland	ECP activities	
Activity	Enhancement	Project acres	62
Land ownership	State	Open to public hunting?	Yes - all
		Open to public fishing?	Yes - all



Natural Heritage Database Review

Answer the following questions

Natural Heritage elements were found within one mile of my project site(s) Yes

List all elements found within one mile of site(s) and discuss how you will mitigate or avoid impacts to these elements.

Additional wetlands are found within the Toe WMA and consideration has been given to avoid nesting season (April 15-July 15).

Attachments

Additional Documentation

Attach additional documentation as applicable using the appropriate categories below. If you exceed the size limit while uploading, contact CPL staff to discuss your options.

Letters of Support

Partner Commitment Letters

Photos

<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>
Heron_WD_CPL_Grant_Graphic.pdf	Toe WMA Existing Wetlands

Restoration Plans

Engineering/Survey/Design Plans

<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>
16368_Overall_Wetland_Map_-_CPL_Grant.pdf	Wetland Boundary Map
16368_Wetland_Plan___Profile-_CPL_Grant1.pdf	Wetland Plan and Profile

Supplemental Documents

Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.

I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.

I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.

I certify that I am aware at least one Land Manager Review and Approval form is required for every application and at least one Public Waters Contact form is required for all public waters work. I am aware I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached the required type and number of forms as necessary for this project.

I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature: **Jan Voit**

Title: **District Administrator**

Organization / Agency:

Date:

**Heron Lake Watershed
District**

0012-07-17