

From: [Heather Koop](#)
Cc: [Bill Becker](#); [Sandy Smith](#)
Subject: FW: LSOHC request follow up - Restoration Evaluations
Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013 9:08:07 AM
Attachments: [Restoration Evlauations ML14 - follow up.pdf](#)
[OHF FY15 - Resto Eval budget.pdf](#)

Members,

Wade Johnson asked that we forward you additional information on the Restoration Evaluation program.

Heather

From: Johnson, Wade A (DNR) [mailto:Wade.A.Johnson@state.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 4:26 PM
To: Bill Becker; Heather Koop
Cc: Wilson, Grant (DNR)
Subject: LSOHC request follow up - Restoration Evaluations

Bill and Heather,

Please see attached follow up letter to the Council regarding last week's presentation of the ML14 Restoration Evaluations request. I also attached the Budget spreadsheet page from the request; I will leave it at your discretion if this should accompany the letter.

Thanks,
Wade

Wade Johnson
Restoration Evaluations Coordinator
Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4025
651-259-5075
Wade.A.Johnson@state.mn.us

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$100,000

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$40,000	\$0		\$40,000
Contracts	\$48,000	\$0		\$48,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$2,000	\$0		\$2,000
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$8,500	\$0		\$8,500
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$1,500	\$0		\$1,500
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$100,000	\$0	-	\$100,000

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Site Assessors (Various State Employees)	0.10	1.00	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Restoration Evaluation Coordinator	0.40	1.00	\$30,000	\$0		\$30,000
Total	0.50	2.00	\$40,000	\$0	-	\$40,000



LEGACY FUND RESTORATION EVALUATIONS
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Date: September 10, 2013

To: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Wade Johnson, Restoration Evaluations Program Coordinator
651.259.5075 Wade.A.Johnson@state.mn.us

Subject: September 04, 2013 Presentation Follow up - Restoration Evaluations ML14 Funding Request

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for inviting me to speak with you this past Tuesday night regarding Outdoor Heritage Fund restoration evaluations. As I stated in my presentation funds requested for FY15 are vital to ensuring the effectiveness of the restoration evaluation program. I would like to provide you additional information at this time regarding the need for the requested funds.

The proposed FY15 budget will provide for the expanded evaluation of ten previously unevaluated Outdoor Heritage restorations, as well as follow assessments on up to two previously evaluated projects. In addition to costs for a 0.4 FTE program coordinator and State Agency staff to conduct site assessments and provide documentation, it is anticipated that expenditures will be made to follow through on the program directive to focus on *improving future restorations* by creating a feedback loop from lessons learned in the field to support technical guidance and training materials and showcasing selected projects in case studies. The proposed budget also includes an anticipated \$48,000 for contracts to private firms with specific expertise in restoration practices. This valuable contribution will enable a more in-depth assessment of restoration practices and greater capacity to highlight project successes and convey lessons learned. I attached the first two pages of the RFP for restoration evaluations to provide an overview of anticipated contract services.

Please feel free to pass along questions and comments to Council Staff. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wade A. Johnson".

Wade Johnson

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Project Overview

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests proposals to 1) conduct technical evaluations of habitat restoration projects completed with Clean Water, Land, and Legacy amendment funds and 2) create restoration technical assistance support materials focused on improving future restorations. State law *M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Ch. 6* directs restoration evaluations to be conducted on restoration projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund *M.S. 114D.50*, Outdoor Heritage Fund *M.S. 97A.056*, and Parks and Trails Fund *M.S. 85.53*. (Attachment 1). Additional information regarding the Legacy Restoration Evaluations is available online in the fiscal year 2012 program report: <http://archive.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2012/mandated/121281.pdf>

Contract work will involve the following sets of activities. Responding firms and organizations are asked to indicate interest in one or both sets of activities.

- 1) Visual assessment and documentation of restorations sites with regards to the use of accepted practices consistent with current science and achievement of the project's stated goals. Evaluation of restoration projects will be conducted throughout the state on a variety of habitat types, including wetlands, grasslands, forests, rivers, streams and lakeshores. Whenever feasible, the project manager(s) of the restoration projects(s) being evaluated will be on site while the restoration evaluation is being conducted. Contractors will complete a standard site evaluation form for each site (Attachment 2) as well as provide other project specific documentation as directed including, but not limited to, photos of restoration components, visual assessments of site preparation, plant survivorship and, seeding success, and inspection of specific engineering, bioengineering or vegetation management practices. Contractors will be approved to perform assessment work on up to four habitat types; prairie/grassland, forest, wetland, aquatic; and in up to four geographic regions of the State (Attachment 3).
- 2) Creation of restoration case studies and technical assistance support materials. Contractors will prepare case studies of specific restoration projects detailing project goals, implementation activities, challenging situations, outcomes and lessons learned from restoration practice in the field. Contractors may also prepare restoration technical assistance support materials directed to disseminate contemporary knowledge of restoration practices and increase local capacity among practitioners around the State. This includes creation of effective applied restoration practice guidance and/or supplementing existing practice standards and guidance documents and/or training materials related to these topics. Topics and areas of focus will be determined by needs established by the Technical Evaluation Panel (see fiscal year 2012 report). All materials produced will be focused on improving future restorations.

Contractors will be approved to conduct one or both of the sets of activities listed above. Specific services will be described in individual work orders.

This RFP will establish a list of qualified contractors who are approved to provide services under a Master Contract Agreement for two years from the initiation of the contract with an option to extend for an additional three years. The total estimated cost of this Master Contract Program is \$300,000.

Approved contractors may receive multiple work order agreements during the term of this Contract. Individual work orders may range from \$2,500 to \$40,000.

State employees may be utilized to perform the services called for by the contract to the extent practicable and appropriate. This contract will be utilized in situations where State staff are not able and/or available to perform the services based on limitations of availability, location, specific expertise and/or potential conflict of interest.

Goals

The goals of this program are 1) to provide technical evaluation of Legacy Fund habitat restorations and 2) to apply findings of the evaluation process to facilitate continuous improvement of restoration practice in Minnesota.

The work activities covered by this contract will engage a broad cross section of restoration practitioners throughout Minnesota, providing both an independent evaluation of restoration practices and delivering a sufficiently comprehensive assessment of restoration activities to be used for informing improvement in future restorations. Restoration practitioners include private contractors / consultants, watershed district staff, soil and water conservation district staff, local governmental unit staff and non-governmental organization staff. This Master Contract will allow the State to effectively capture the collective knowledge of practitioners throughout Minnesota regarding the evolving applied science of ecological restoration.

Sample Tasks

Below are examples of tasks that approved contractors may be asked to provide.

- 1) Project Evaluation:
 - Conduct field assessment(s) of project site(s) relative to the application of accepted current science based practices and the stated goals of projects being evaluated.
 - Communicate with Restoration Evaluation Program Coordinator and Project Manager(s) of sites being evaluated regarding restoration processes and practices.
 - Document findings from field visit(s) in the Standard Project Evaluation Form (Attachment 2), photographs and other formats as directed.
 - Prepare and format documentation and related graphic materials utilizing *Adobe CS.6* software (not required for all Contractors).
 - Participate in defined follow up communications as directed, including the Technical Evaluation Panel's annual project review meeting, in person or by teleconference.
- 2) Restoration technical assistance support materials:
 - Prepare case studies of specific restoration projects detailing implementation activities, challenges and lessons learned as directed in work orders.
 - Prepare restoration technical assistance training materials and restoration practice technical guidance documents.
 - Prepare and format technical assistance materials and related graphic materials as directed utilizing *Adobe CS.6* software.

Specific guidance and deliverables will be specified in work orders to approved Contractors.