

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

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## Project Summary

### Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	Schwerin Creek WMA Hagen Tract 2	Project Manager:	Susan Olson
Organization Name:	Mn Deer Hunters Assoc, SE MN Chapter	Title:	Chapter Volunteer
Organization Type:	Non-Profit	Phone:	507-437-5313
Mailing Address 1:	1 Hormel Place	Email:	smolson@hormel.com
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	Austin		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	55912		

### Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Mower	Secondary Land
Nearest City:	Elkton	Ownerships:
Project Site Name:	Schwerin Creek WMA Hagen Tract 2	
Primary Land Ownership:	State	

### Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Acquisition	Primary Habitat Type:	Fish, Game or Wildlife
Additional Activities:	Restoration		Habitat
Total Project Sites:	1	Additional Habitats:	Prairie
Total Project Acres:	31		

### Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount	\$100,266
Requested:	
Total Match Amount	\$17,694
Pledged:	
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	\$117,960
Estimated Project	2012-06-30
Completion Date:	

## Summary

This application is for a 30.8 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing 37 acre Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton in Mower County, Minnesota. Schwerin Creek runs through the target acquisition to the WMA. Hunting opportunities for the area include deer, small game, pheasant, and turkey. The acquisition will nearly double the size of the WMA, and provide additional hunting opportunities for the public. Four of the new acres will be restored to natural prairie grassland habitat.

## Problem Statement

Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area is located half-mile west of Elkton MN, approx 2 miles south of Interstate 90. The WMA is on both sides of Schwerin Creek. Project partners see multiple benefit results from this project. One goal is to link habitat corridors and expand a priority area for

habitat. The current Schwerin Creek WMA is less than 40 acres. The partners hope to add habitat opportunities and provide a more efficient way the site to be managed. The proposed addition doubles the size of the WMA. Another concern of project partners is the lack of habitat in the county. According to the State Board of Water and Soil Resources, Mower Co. ranks second to last among counties in the state for habitat. This statistic is alarming and does not reflect the public's interest in using habitat ground for recreational purposes. The proposed addition is located directly downstream from the WMA and captures over 4000 feet of additional stream habitat and riparian buffer. Current land use is brushy and grassed flood plain and agriculture row crops. Restoring native vegetation and securing this land will provide perpetual cover to protect the shoreline and filter ag runoff, which is contributing to the high levels of turbidity in downstream water sampling. Recreational use and access to hunting land is shrinking in Mower Co. Mower Co. is not identified in the priority areas for waterfowl or other protected species, yet an abundance of wildlife are striving within the County and the public continues to strongly support local hunting and conservation organizations. Legacy funds on targeted areas are the only viable way of adding habitat in Mower Co. This site was identified through discussions with local partners and local DNR representatives. A collaborative effort is being made to look at projects for multiple benefits and prioritize them in a way that local priorities are being met for everyone interested in adding habitat in our area.

### **Project Objectives**

Schwerin Creek WMA has approximately 4,000 feet of stream running through it. This stream provides ample opportunity for shoreland birds and upland wildlife habitat to use for food and traveling corridors. It also provides for natural riparian areas to stabilize banks for fish and other wildlife opportunities. The proposed project more than doubles the stream inclusion in the WMA area, adding an additional 4,500 feet of shoreline for restoration from an agricultural use to natural and native riparian habitat. Once completed, the project will encompass over 1.6 miles of stream habitat corridor and its associated flood plain wetlands and upland buffer. With additional habitat comes more opportunity for habitat to flourish. Kurt Haroldson led research work at the DNR research station in Madelia, Minnesota. He states that pheasant populations need habitat in order to survive, and with habitat and other factors, pheasant populations will expand. In addition, riparian land, adjacent to streams is outstanding habitat for Deer and Turkeys to thrive. In the 1989 film, *Field of Dreams*, a voice tells the Kevin Costner character; "If you build it they will come." The local partners for this initiative have championed this statement to be used for future wildlife and hunters alike. If future generations of wildlife are present at the site, those individuals and their families will use the area. All of the partners in this project recognize the importance of youth for preserving the land and passing on positive family recreational activities such as hunting, trapping, bird watching, etc. All of the partners believe that this project will foster future generations to take advantage of pristine habitat for all of its recreational activities. It is difficult to quantify and compare recreation use in the future, as compared to current conditions. A few things we know for certain, the more pristine habitat is available, and the more wildlife will use it for nesting, resting and travel. Recreational opportunities such as this are not prevalent in the area around the proposed project. Without opportunity to have a successful hunting experience, the youth are less likely to stick with it. Opportunity is an imperative part of maintaining future generations of outdoor recreationalists. This project will result in opportunity to see and experience more wildlife.

### **Methods**

The initial development for this tract includes boundary posting and informational signing, constructing a parking area and re-establishing grassland on a 4-acre annual crop field. Short term maintenance will include clipping and/or spraying the grassland establishment. The boundary will be posted with Department of Natural Resources standard signs and posts as directed by area wildlife staff. The grassland will be restored to a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs, also as directed by Department of Natural Resources area wildlife staff. The cropland site will be prepared for no-till or minimum till seeding through appropriate crop selection prior to seeding and conventional farming methods. The site will be sown to the native seed mix by the project partners. The project partners will also develop a 50'x50' graveled parking area to provide for off road parking for visitors in order to maintain a safe stopping area.

### **Project Timeline**

Time Frame

June 2011

Goal

Acquire land

October 2011  
June 2012

Restore habitat  
Install parking area, signage, fences

For all lands acquired in fee title or permanent conservation easement, provide a description of the selection process used to identify parcels to be acquired.

**The applicant met with representatives of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and members of three other conservation organizations in Mower County. The group identified several parcels of land that could be acquired, restored, and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. This particular 30.8 acre tract adjoins an existing WMA, making it more desirable to the DNR than stand-alone tracts. Also, the WMA will be nearly doubled in size by this acquisition.**

Describe the long-term management work required of the agency receiving this land. Estimate the additional cost to the agency for this work.

**See Additional Info tab for this information, on Uploaded Document Number 8.**

Habitat Development #	Acres	Cost/Acre	Total	Funding Source
Prairie Grassland				
Forest / Woody Cover				
Wetland				

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source
Boundary Survey	2000	CPL grant partner match
Posting / Fencing	500	CPL grant partner match
Wood Routed Sign	2000	CPL grant partner match
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots	1000	CPL grant partner match
Access Roads and Trails		
Well Sealing / Site Clean-up		

Identify short and long term maintenance and management work required to sustain this project and source(s) of funding

Work needed	Who is responsible	Funding source
Maintenance, management, repair	DNR	DNR

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## Project Information

Answer each of the following questions in 1000 characters or less; descriptions/definitions are available in the [Criteria and Scoring Table](#).

**1. Describe the local support for this project.**

This project is the result of collaboration by the members of four local chapters of national conservation organizations: SE Minnesota Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Izaak Walton League, Mower County Habitat & Pheasants Forever, and National Wild Turkey Federation. In addition, the project has received several letters of support.

**2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.**

For this project, the Southeast Minnesota Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association is working closely with three other Mower County chapters from national conservation organizations: Izaak Walton League, Mower County Habitat & Pheasants Forever, and National Wild Turkey Federation. All four chapters are committing funding and resources to this project. These organizations are well established with full community support.

**3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.**

The landowner involved with this acquisition has never been open to transferring this property or selling in the past. There is some concern that if the project does not move forward, his interest level will not be high enough to sustain multiple funding application cycles. If this project does not work, he will likely move the land to a private individual. This will provide future issues between public and private boundaries.

**4. Discuss if there are multiple benefits resulting from your project, identifying those species, habitats, etc.**

This expansion project is so attractive to local partners because there are multiple benefits associated with it. The habitat benefits will be well discussed in this request. However there are several other benefits that will directly come from its completion. Water Quality is a high concern for the public water use. Downstream water monitoring sites show that the stream running through this potential project is not meeting the State's standard for turbidity. This project would restore and perpetually restore the stream banks and provide agricultural runoff filtration. In addition to that, it has been well documented that downstream flood damage is causing impacts that are detrimental to homeowners and landowner owners. Restoring the native vegetation in the flood plain will decrease peak flows. This will have a positive impact on slowing the water down and tapping it in the upper reaches of the watershed.

**5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.**

The location of this land is ideal for many different types of wildlife in the area, and particularly for hunting enthusiasts are Deer, Turkey, Pheasant, Wood Ducks and Doves. Many other notable species are represented in the existing WMA and will have sufficient opportunity to expand their populations once the addition is complete and restored. The list includes turtles and other amphibians, and several mammals, some of which include rabbits, raccoon, mink, and beaver. Recent River Otter sightings have been documented. After restoration, the native flowers will attract a variety of birds and butterflies that may not be using the site now due to a lack of diversity. The fishery and aquatic life in the stream will also benefit from the project. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will be conducting a biological inventory of the stream every ten years. This will be a good tool to track conservation activity and document the success through biological success in the stream.

**6. Describe how your project is consistent with sound conservation science.**

The premise of the project is to restore the site to native conditions, to the extent

possible. The project will also provide public access and opportunity. All restoration activity involves targeting native plant communities for restoration and getting the site to perform naturally. Once returned to its native condition, other aspects of conservation will come about as a result. Once native grasses returned to a dominant species, the site will better filter agricultural runoff in its large, deep rooted bio mass. Flood waters will be held on the landscape, reducing downstream erosion and degraded habitat. The native landscape will provide more diversity of flowers and other vegetation. This will promote diversity of wildlife which relies on the flowers for a food source. The project promotes balance and conservation of native plant and wildlife communities in and around Schwerin Creek.

**7. Indicate if your project is adjacent to protected lands, describing those lands (ownership, public access, etc.)**

The project is adjacent to the Schwerin Creek WMA near Elkton in Mower County, Minnesota. The new acquisition would extend the WMA to the east, off the south boundary of the WMA. An additional public access would be built off the adjacent road. Private property is near the property. However, this land is being used for agricultural use. There are no trespassing or boundary issues anticipated as a result of the acquisition. There is also a Township road located to the south of the property to provide ease of access.

**8. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project and the sources of funding.**

The grant applicant and its supporting partners have funding secured to cover the 15% match required for the grant. Those funds have been budgeted for this project and will be accessible to move forward immediately after funding has been awarded.

**9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.**

The grant applicant and its supporting partners have funding secured to cover the 15% match required for the grant. The CPL Grant funds are anticipated to cover 85% of the total budget.

**10. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.**

The Schwerin Creek WMA is open for all public hunting, with hunting and trapping as the primary activities. The existing WMA is specifically managed for pheasants and deer, but the WMA and the proposed extension contain turkeys and other small game, in addition to pheasants and deer. Schwerin Creek runs through the WMA and also through the proposed extension.

**11. Describe the sustainability of your project.**

The site will be sustained in perpetuity as part of the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Management Program (WMA). The project involves fee title of land to expand on the Schwerin Creek WMA. The State will manage and maintain the land for public access hunting and other recreational uses.

**12. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).**

The land is currently used for agricultural row crops and recent grazing along the floodplain. Much of the site has been disturbed at some point in the past and the native vegetation has been replaced with corn/soy bean rotation and non native grasses. Once DNR has taken possession of the land, a management plan will be implemented to restore native vegetation of the ground. Native grasses and Forbs will be planted in the uplands. Other management activities such as burning and mowing will be implemented as a means of encouraging dormant native seeds to re-establish.

**13. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.**

The Schwerin Creek WMA addition is a very cost efficient acquisition project. This project fits with the constitutional amendment goals and does so in a financially responsible manner. The proposal seeks land which is poor agricultural use and lacks potential for future development. This allows the acquisition price to be substantially lower than much of the land in this area. This land can be acquired for 30% less than recent acquisition projects in Mower County. In addition, there are enough partners financially committed to project to get it done. Many of these organizations have

limited financial resources. When they target a project for funding, it is because that project will have a significant benefit and they can justify the funding to their supporters.

**14. Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.**

The partners involved in this project have a long standing tradition of putting grass roots projects on the ground in Mower County. All partners are well represented and work well with each other to achieve common goals. Past acquisition projects by members of this group include the Schottler WMA (167 acres in 2003), Ramsey Mill Pond WMA (335 acres), Lost Lake WPA (87 acres in 2005), and an extension to Lost Lake WPA (13 acres in 2010), all in Mower County. An extension to Ramsey Mill Pond WMA (92 acres) is pending and expected to close in October 2010.

**15. Discuss how your project supports landscape level plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.**

This addition to the Schwerin Creek project supports local conservation and water quality plans, in addition to state wide wildlife planning. The Local Water Management Plan and Cedar River Watershed District plan both cite soil erosion control and flooding as two priority concerns for their respective area. This project will improve existing conditions for both of those priorities.

**16. Discuss how your project supports species plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.**

The project supports the MN DNR long range plan for (1) ring-necked pheasant: increases grassland habitat important for reproduction, protects dense woody cover for winter and escape habitat, expands public hunting area, substantially improves access; (2) wild turkey: protects/expands nesting and brood rearing habitats, helps to maintain the stream side corridor, improves hunting access; (3) duck recovery: protects safe nesting habitat for wood ducks and hooded mergansers and brood rearing and migration habitat. Beaver ponds, adjacent grasslands and wet meadows are utilized by mallards and Canada geese. This plan is consistent with MN's WMA Acquisition Plan (and AMA Acquisition Plan). The acquisition adds to the public land base in an area with substantial competing land uses and pressure on remaining natural areas. There are several cities within a 50-mile radius and demand for wildlife-based recreation outstrips the supply.

**17. Discuss how your project conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.**

The conservation of stream and riparian habitats has impact in a number of areas identified in this plan. The project addresses several resource needs and is consistent with SCPP recommendations, including protection of critical in-stream and shore land habitats and protecting priority habitats (e.g., areas identified in the Southern Region Conservation Priority Areas). The project is consistent with local planning efforts to address water pollution issues and flooding in the Cedar River Watershed by conserving riparian land to retain water in the landscape (watercourse, floodplain and riparian buffer) and to mitigate peak flows. Connectivity of habitats and access for outdoor recreation will be improved. A substantial population base is found within a 50-mile radius. People will enjoy improved public outdoor recreation nearby. Local economies will benefit from enhanced environmental services provided by the natural area and diversified local economies.

**18. Discuss how your project conforms to the State Wildlife Action Plan (if applicable).**

The project addresses specific goals of the SWAP, related to species of greatest conservation need (SGCN): stabilize and increase populations; enhance people's enjoyment and appreciation of species. The project protects key habitats identified for the Oak Savanna Subsection. Riparian and aquatic habitats are disproportionately valuable. Acquisition and conservation will permanently protect and expand these areas. The project adds land to the WMA system providing public access for the quiet enjoyment of wildlife, and access to natural areas for scientific study and survey of SGCN and their key habitats. There are 93 SGCN identified in the Oak Savanna subsection and habitat loss and degradation are problems for the majority. Key

habitats of river and grassland will be protected or enhanced by this project. The project will add to an existing WMA protecting non-forest wetlands – another key habitat.



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## Site Information

\*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

### Land Manager

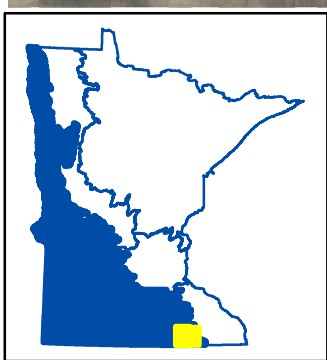
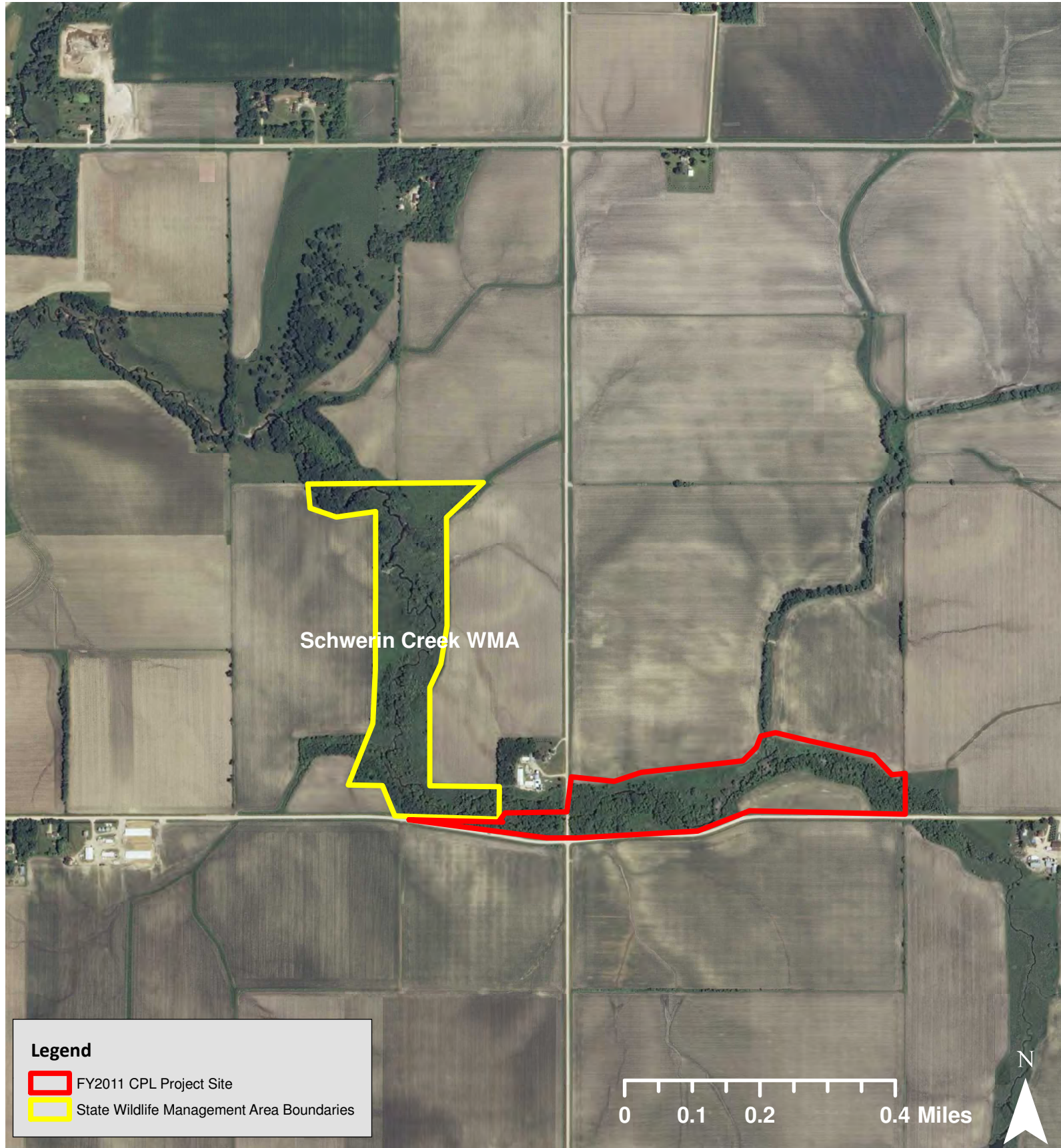
Name: **Jeanine Vorland**  
Organization: **Minnesota DNR**  
Title: **Area Wildlife Manager**

Phone: **507-213-1197**  
Email: **jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us**

### Site Information

Land Ownership: **Private** Acres: **31**  
Site Name(s): **Schwerin Creek WMA  
Hagen Tract 2** Click here to [View Site Map](#)  
Activity: **Acquisition**  
Habitat: **Fish, Game or Wildlife  
Habitat**





**CPL FY11-059**  
**Schwerin Creek WMA Hagen Tract 2**  
**MN Deer Hunters Assoc., SE MN Chapter**  
**Mower County**  
**LSOHC Prairie Planning Section**



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## Budget Information

### Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	<b>Kim Hanson</b>	Street Address 1:	<b>460 Peterson Road</b>
Title:	<b>MDHA Administrative Services</b>	Street Address 2:	
Email:	<b>kimhanson@mndeerhunters.com</b>	City:	<b>Grand Rapids</b>
Phone:	<b>2183271103 x19</b>	State:	<b>MN</b>
		Zip Code:	<b>55744</b>

### Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel					
Contracts					
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition					
Easement Stewardship				In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)				<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,694</b>
Professional Services					
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items		<b>\$5,100</b>	<b>\$5,100</b>		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$100,266</b>	<b>\$17,694</b>	<b>\$117,960</b>		

### Details

#### Fee Acquisition with PILT

Parcel Name	Parcel Purchase Price	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
<b>Hagen Tract</b>			<b>Grant</b>	
<b>Hagen Tract</b>			<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Grant:</b>			

#### DNR Land Acquisition Cost

Parcel name, est. cost	Description of additional costs	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
<b>Schwerin Creek WMA</b>	<b>DNR LAM Acquisition Cost</b>		<b>Grant</b>	
<b>Schwerin Creek WMA Tract 2</b>	<b>Boundary survey</b>		<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>Schwerin Creek WMA Tract 2</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>		<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Grant:</b>			

#### Additional Budget Items

Item	Description	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
<b>habitat development facility</b>	<b>4 acres prairie grassland</b>	<b>\$1,600</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>development facility</b>	<b>posting/fencing</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>
<b>development facility</b>	<b>wood routed sign</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>

development			
facility	signs, access, parking	\$1,000	Match
development			Cash
Totals	Grant: \$0 Match: \$5,100	Total: \$5,100	

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## Project Review and Approval

A Project Review and Approval Form must be completed by each Land Manager named within the Site Info tab and Land Managers only need to complete one form for all sites they manage. Submitting this form fulfills the following requirements:

- Provides the results of the Natural Heritage Database Review,
- Allows for technical review of the project by the Land Manager, and
- Verifies that the public agency approves the work to be done (or acquisition) on land they manage.

You, as the applicant, are responsible for meeting with the Land Manager and receiving a completed Project Review and Approval Form. This form must contain an original signature from the Land Manager and you must upload it below as a PDF.

Each project will require at least one Project Review and Approval form. You may attach up to 4 forms on this page, but if you need more room you may attach up to three more on the "Additional Info" tab. If your project is working under 3 Land Managers, you must receive and submit a form from each manager.

No late Project Review and Approval Forms will be accepted. Applications lacking any necessary approval forms will be deemed incomplete and not considered for funding.

**Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)**

No **Natural Heritage** elements were found within my project site(s):

**Project Review and Approval Forms**

[Uploaded Form 1](#)

[Uploaded Form 2](#)

## CPL Project Review and Approval Form

### REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:

Agency:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

### PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:

Contact Person:

Organization:

Email:

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- ☒ I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.
- ☐ For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

**I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:**

- ☒ this project to have no features within one mile.
- ☐ this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:

The County Biological Survey has not been completed in Mower County. It is possible that on-going field work may yield features not currently in the database. However, this project is not likely to adversely affect any features, rather it is anticipated to benefit heritage elements in the area by conserving or expanding available habitats and management opportunities.

- ☐ this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

☐ I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- ☐ minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.
- ☒ a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.
- ☐ an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.

☒ I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

## CPL Project Review and Approval Form

**For Acquisitions Only:**

- ☒ This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- ☒ I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
- ☒ I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

Habitat Development	# Acres	Cost/ Acre	Total	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Prairie Grassland	4	\$400.00	\$1,600.00	CPL Grant Partner Match	Both cost and work
Forest/ Woody Cover					Choose
Wetland					Choose
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$1,600.00</b>		

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Boundary Survey	\$2,000.00	CPL Grant Partner Match	Both cost and work
Posting/ Fencing	\$500.00	CPL Grant Partner Match	Cost
Wood Routed Sign	\$2,000.00	CPL Grant Partner Match	Cost
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots	\$1,000.00	CPL Grant Partner Match	Both cost and work
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>		

**Upon final review of this project:**

- ☒ I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- ☐ I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- ☐ I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name: Jessamine Viskind

Date: 10 September 2010

Comments: I support this project without reservation. The tract would be an good addition to the existing State Wildlife Management Area. It will conserve a nice stretch of small stream and riparian habitats. The project will improve both the visibility and access to the area in addition to increasing the size of the unit. The tract requires minor development. The facility development will address existing needs for the unit and the habitat development will result in a net increase in protected grassland habitat in the area. No unusual management problems are anticipated. Successful completion of the project is not anticipated to increase management efforts or costs for the Wildlife Area, rather the costs will benefit a larger conservation and outdoor recreation area.



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## Additional Information

**List any additional details about your project here. Include your organization's history or charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. This is not required.**

The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, since its start in 1980, has partnered locally, regionally and statewide with other conservation organizations in many projects that include habitat restorations, enhancements, easements and land acquisitions. Other organizations include but are not limited to the MN DNR and USFWS etc.

## Supplemental Documents

If you / your project does not need to upload any of these documents, you may leave these upload boxes empty.

Upload additional information here, limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc. You may email easement information only if it exceeds size limit while trying to submit the application; all other supporting documentation must be uploaded. Reference CPL Application # and name when emailing (provided upon application submission) or your email will be returned. Send emails to

[LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us)

[Uploaded Document 1](#)

[Uploaded Document 2](#)

[Uploaded Document 3](#)

[Uploaded Document 4](#)

[Uploaded Document 5](#)

[Uploaded Document 6](#)

[Uploaded Document 7](#)

[Uploaded Document 8](#)

[Uploaded Document 9](#)

[Uploaded Document 10](#)

## Financial Information Required for Non-Profit applicants requesting over \$25,000

990 Form or EZ990

[Form 990 / EZ990](#)

Audited Financials, unaudited financials as a second choice

[Financials](#)

## Does your organization have a Conflict of Interest Policy?

**Yes - Upload Conflict of Interest Policy here:**

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

## List key staff or members here that will be participating with this project:

Darwin Viker, chapter president, Southeast Minnesota MDHA

## List your organization's Board of Directors with affiliations:

Exec Director, Mark Johnson, Grand Rapids; Pres, John Erlandson Sr., Cambridge; VP, Darrold Persson, Hibbing; Sec, Denis Quarberg, Windom; Treas, Wayne Johnson, Palisade; At Large Director, Dan Splittstoser, North Branch



September 9, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
Letter of Commitment for Application of  
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
For Mower County 45 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the funding commitment of the Southeast Minnesota chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association being made as part of the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Southeast Minnesota chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Isaac Walton League, and Pheasants Forever.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. The current application is for a 45 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing 37 acre Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Our organization's financials are attached to the grant application, and we are committed to providing 35 percent of the local match.

Thank you for your consideration.



Darwin Viker  
President  
Southeast Minnesota Chapter, MDHA



## **MOWER COUNTY CHAPTER HABITAT & PHEASANTS FOREVER**

August 20, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
Letter of Commitment for Application of  
Southeast Minnesota chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
For Mower County 30.8 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is confirm the funding commitment of Mower County Chapter Habitat & Pheasants Forever being made as part of the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the local chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association (Southeast Minnesota chapter), Isaac Walton League (Mower County chapter), and Pheasants Forever (Mower County chapter). The local Southeast Minnesota chapter of MDHA is the grant applicant.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. The current application is for a 30.8 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing 37 acre Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Our organization's financials are attached to the grant application, and we are committed to providing one-third or more of the local match.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan M. Olson  
Chapter President  
Mower County Habitat & Pheasants Forever



## Cedar River Longbeards

August 20, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
Letter of Support for Application of  
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
For Mower County 30.8 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Linden Anderson and I represent the Cedar River Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. My fellow officers and I believe we need to do all we can to conserve habitat in this state for all wild things and all Minnesotans. This parcel of land represents an extraordinary opportunity to conserve habitat in Mower County.

Please accept this letter as our expression of support for the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Mower County, Minnesota chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Isaac Walton League, and Pheasants Forever.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. The current application is for a 30.8 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Schwerin Creek runs from the WMA through the target acquisition. Hunting opportunities for the area include deer, small game, pheasant, and turkey.

We believe that a funding grant to assist with the acquisition of a Schwerin Creek WMA extension would be beneficial for all of Mower County, and it should be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linden Anderson  
Cedar River Longbeards Chapter  
National Wild Turkey Federation



Austin Chapter 10  
Izaak Walton League of America  
57996 770<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin MN 55912

September 13, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
Letter of Commitment for Application of  
SE Minnesota chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
For Mower County 30.8 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is confirm the funding commitment of the Austin Chapter 10 of the Izaak Walton League of America being made as part of the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Southeast Minnesota chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, and the Mower County chapters of Izaak Walton League and Pheasants Forever.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. The current application is for a 30.8 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing 37 acre Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Our organization's financials are attached to the grant application, and we are committed to providing up to one-third of the local match.

Thank you for your consideration.

President  
Jim Stiles  
Austin Chapter #10

*austinikes.org*

**Jeanne Poppe**  
State Representative

District 27B  
Fillmore and Mower Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

August 31, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
Letter of Support for Application of  
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
For Mower County 45 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member of the MN House representing constituents of District 27B, I have long supported multi benefited habitat projects within our district. There is currently a proposal to restore native habitat and create new public recreation opportunities within Mower County. In addition to the public access and conservation benefits, I appreciate the benefits to improve water quality and control flood waters that will come from this project.

Please accept this letter as my expression of support for the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Mower County and Minnesota chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Isaac Walton League, and Pheasants Forever.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. The current application would significantly increase the land that adjoins the existing Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Schwerin Creek runs from the WMA through the target acquisition. Hunting opportunities for the area include deer, small game, pheasant, and turkey.

I believe that a funding grant to assist with the acquisition of a Schwerin Creek WMA extension would be beneficial for all of Mower County, and respectfully request its approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

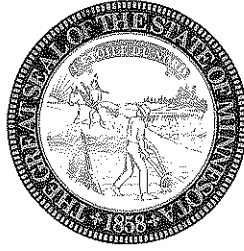
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Poppe".

Jeanne Poppe  
State Representative



**Robin Brown**  
State Representative

District 27A  
Freeborn and Mower Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

September 8, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program - Support for Application of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al. to help purchase land in Mower County

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my expression of support for the 2010 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application being submitted by the Mower County chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Isaac Walton League, and Pheasants Forever.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire significant parcels of land next to the Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area in Mower County, which then can be restored and dedicated for fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and other public uses.

As a State Representative, I have and will continue to support multi benefit habitat projects. I believe this project in particular will have many positive effects in our community, including better flood control, improving our water quality and helping restore the area to its original, self-sustaining and healthy state.

Expanding the existing wildlife management area will ensure the protection and preservation of an important resource to our community, state, and future generations and I strongly believe the grant application should be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Brown".

Robin Brown  
State Representative





**DAN SPARKS**

Senator - District 27

317 State Capitol Building  
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606  
Phone: 651-296-9248  
E-Mail: sen dan.sparks@senate.mn



## Senate

State of Minnesota

August 20, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Letter of Support for Application of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al. For Mower County 30.8 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

As the State Senator representing Mower County, I am writing to express my support for the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Mower County, Minnesota chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Isaac Walton League, and Pheasants Forever.

These organizations have been working closely with the DNR to identify parcels of land optimal for acquisition, restoration, and eventual public use. This application seeks funding for a 30.8 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Schwerin Creek runs from the WMA through the targeted acquisition. This riparian grassland is home to deer, small game, pheasant, and turkey.

I believe that the acquisition of this Schwerin Creek WMA extension would be beneficial for all of Mower County by expanding hunting, fishing, and other recreational opportunities in the area. These organizations are committed to the restoration, protection, and enhancement of this habitat and urge your support of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Sparks', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Sparks  
State Senator



Recycled Paper  
10% Post-  
Consumer Fiber

**COMMITTEES:** Vice Chair, Commerce Committee; Vice Chair, Economic Development Budget Committee; Energy, Utilities, Technology & Communication Committee; Capital Investment Committee; Business, Industry & Jobs Committee

**SERVING:** Mower County, Freeborn County and part of Fillmore County



September 10, 2010

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program  
Letter of Support for Application of  
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
For Mower County 30.8 acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

On September 7, 2010 the Mower County Board of Commissioners approved this Letter of Support for the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant for the Elkton WMA in Mower County. As County Commissioners, we are charged with overseeing county activities, ensuring that the needs of our citizens are met and that county operations run smoothly.

Please accept this letter as our expression of support for the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Mower County, Minnesota chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Izaak Walton League, and Pheasants Forever and supported by other conservation groups such as the Cedar River Longbeards of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. The current application is for a 30.8 acre tract of land that adjoins the existing Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota. Schwerin Creek runs from the existing WMA through the target acquisition. Hunting opportunities for the area include deer, small game, pheasant, and turkey.

We believe that a funding grant to assist with the acquisition of a Schwerin Creek WMA extension would be beneficial for all of Mower County, and it should be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Raymond J. Tucker  
Mower County Board of Commissioners, Chair

From the Office of the Mayor



500 Fourth Avenue NE  
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773  
Phone: 507-437-9965  
Fax: 507-434-7197  
[www.ci.austin.mn.us](http://www.ci.austin.mn.us)

September 14, 2010

RE: Conservation Partners Grant Program  
Letter of support for application of  
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, et al.  
for Mower County 30.8-acre tract

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the elected mayor of the City of Austin. Austin is the county seat for Mower County, and the target property is approximately 15 miles east of Austin.

For many years, I have been a hunter and conservationist. As both, it is important that we work now to create opportunities for the public, especially younger parts of our citizenry, to get into the outdoors and see wildlife even if they chose not to hunt.

This project, being so close to Austin, will provide lifetimes of opportunities for our citizens to interact with wildlife. Therefore, please accept this letter as my expression of support for the 2010 CPL Grant Application being submitted by the Mower County, Minnesota chapters of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Izaak Walton League, and Pheasants Forever and supported by other conservation groups such as the Cedar River Longbeards of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

These groups are collaborating and pooling their funds to acquire parcels of land in Mower County that can be restored and dedicated for hunting, fishing, and other public uses. This current application is for a 30.8-acre tract of land that adjoins the existing Schwerin Creek Wildlife Management Area near Elkton, Minnesota, nearly doubling the size of the current WMA. By adding the existing WMA, maintenance efforts can be combined with those already in place and even more opportunities to hunt deer, turkey, pheasant and small game can be created.

I believe that a funding grant to assist with the acquisition of a Schwerin Creek WMA extension would be beneficial for the citizens of the City of Austin and all of Mower County, and it should be approved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Stiehm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Thomas A. Stiehm  
Mayor

# Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications


Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)


[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)


 Project Summary

 Project Info

 Site Info

 Budget Info

 Review & Approval

 Additional Info

 Application Submission

## 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 Project Review and Approval form is required for every application and I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached one form as necessary for each different Land Manager within my project.**

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

Signature:

**Darwin Viker**

Organization / Agency:

**Southeast Minn chapter  
MDHA**

Title:

**Chapter President**

Date:

**2010-09-15**

Proj ID	Organization Name	Project Name	Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments	Amtount Requested	Score	Technical Review Committee Final Rank	Comments	Regional Comments	Meets Regional Plan?	Rank	Region	Division Director's Comments
59	SE Minn chapter of MDHA	Schwerin Creek WMA Hagen Tract 2	Lots farming in area, would be nice to continue to protect stream. Will home site location impact hunting opportunities?	\$100,266	156	new public access		2 wrongs still don't make a right. Although, this does make a slightly better complex.	Y	M	4	This is a move towards a complex in this area. Is under \$125,000. It's a "random act of conservation"-not a bad thing!

SE MDHA\_59\_Schwerin Creek

															11)Public Access for Hunting and Fishing	12)Sustainability	13)Use of Native Plant Materials	14)Budget and Cost Effectiveness
		1)Amount of Habitat	2)Local Support	3)Degree of Collaboration	4)Urgency	5)Multiple Benefits	6)Habitat Benefits	7)Sound Conservation Science	8)Adjacent to Protected Lands	9)Full Funding of Project	10)Supplants Existing Funding							
		6.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	
		8.00	6.00	6.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	
		4.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	
AVERAGES		6.00	6.67	7.00	8.00	8.00	7.67	8.00	9.67	9.67	8.33	10.00	8.67	9.33	8.67			
TOTAL SCORE	156.00																	

15)Capacity to Successfully Complete Work	16)Supports Existing Landscape Level Plans	17)Supports Species Plans	18)Conforms to Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan	19)Conforms to State Wildlife Action Plan
9.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
9.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	10.00
10.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	8.00
9.33	8.00	7.67	7.33	8.00

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