

4135 - Drain 27 Wetland Restoration Project and Recreational Features

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	3515-Outdoor Heritage Fund September 2020 - Round 17	Initial Submit Date:	Sep 1, 2020 11:44 AM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	Sep 2, 2020 5:00 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Jason Benson
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	Sep 15, 2020 4:03 PM
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	Jason Benson
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*:	Yes
Type:	External User
Name:	Salutation Jason Middle Name First Name Benson Last Name
Title:	Cass County Engineer
Email*:	bensonj@casscountynd.gov
Address*:	1201 Main Ave W West Fargo North Dakota City State/Province 58078 Postal Code/Zip
Phone*:	(701) 298-2372 Ext. Phone ### ### #####

Organization Information

Status*:	Approved
Name*:	Cass County
Organization Type*:	County Government
Tax Id:	
Organization Website::	http://casscountynd.gov/
Address*:	211 9 St S Fargo North Dakota City State/Province 58103-0000 Postal Code/Zip
Phone*:	(701) 297-6000 Ext. ### ### #####
Fax::	### ### #####
Benefactor:	

Fax: (701) 298-2395
 ###-###-####

Comments:

Vendor ID:

**PeopleSoft
 Supplier ID:**

Comments::

Location Code:

**SAM.gov Entity
 ID:**

**SAM.gov
 Name:**

**SAM.gov Entity
 ID Expiration
 Date:**

State Issued ID:

Category #:

Year Begin:

Year Closed:

NCES#:

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

The purpose of this grant is to assist in funding the Drain 27 recreational features, including OHF cost share to support the construction of trails and two trailhead nodes. This will assist in the recreational features to enhance the public use and educational components of the Drain 27 project.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$443,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$10,865,100.00
Total Project Costs:	\$11,308,100.00
You must have at least 25% match	
Percentage of Match:	96.08%

Project Expenses

Project Expense Description	OHF Request	Match Share (Cash)	Match Share (In-Kind)	Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Wetland Construction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,208,100.00	\$2,208,100.00
Land Acquisition	\$0.00	\$8,657,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,657,000.00
Recreational Features	\$443,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$443,000.00
	\$443,000.00	\$8,657,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,208,100.00	\$11,308,100.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

The Drain 27 Wetland Restoration Project is a mitigation project associated with the FM Area Diversion Project. The Wetland Project is being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the City of Fargo and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority being local sponsors. As local sponsors, the requirement to acquire the necessary land for the Wetland Project falls on the Diversion Authority, and through them, the Cass County Joint Water Resource District. The approximately \$8.6M in land acquisition expenses is being funding through voter-approved sales taxes passed in Cass County and the City of Fargo. The \$2.2M in federal construction costs are being funding through federal appropriations through Congress. Together, these funding sources make up 96% of the total project cost. The Outdoor Heritage Fund application is for \$443,000 to enhance the features of the project consistent with the four directives of the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$2,208,100.00	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Cash
\$8,657,000.00	Cass County and Fargo Sales Tax Proceeds	Cash
\$10,865,100.00		

In-Kind

In-Kind Total:

Description

Directives

Major Directive*: Directive C
Choose One

Additional Directive: Directive D
Choose All That Apply

Type of Agency*: Political Subdivision
Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

The Drain 27 Wetland Restoration Project is a mitigation project associated with the FM Area Diversion Project. The Wetland Project is being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with the City of Fargo and the Metro Flood Diversion Authority being local sponsors. In total, the Wetland Project is proposed to be \$11.3M. As local sponsors, the requirement to acquire the necessary land for the Wetland Project falls on the Diversion Authority, and through them, the Cass County Joint Water Resource District. The approximately \$8.6M in land acquisition expenses is being funding through voter-approved sales taxes passed in Cass County and the City of Fargo. The \$2.2M in federal construction costs are being funding through federal appropriations through Congress. Together, these funding sources make up 96% of the total project cost. The Outdoor Heritage Fund application is to enhance the features of the project consistent with the directives of the Outdoor Heritage Fund to developing, enhancing, conserving and restoring wildlife and fish habitat on private and public lands;and conserving natural areas and creating other areas for recreation through the establishment and development of parks and other recreation areas.

Construction of the FM Area Diversion Project will result in unavoidable impacts to wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources be replaced through restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation of lost functions and services. Restoration of the Drain 27 site in Stanley Township will mitigate wetland impacts of the Southern Embankment component of the Diversion Project in North Dakota.

Conceptual plans to restore wetlands in the Drain 27 area involve the construction of a weir near the Southern Embankment to an elevation of 906.3.

The total size of the wetland restoration site is expected to be approximately 320 acres.

- The weir would pond water to reestablish wetland hydrology and vegetation to approximately 150 acres.
- A 50 foot buffer surrounding the restored wetland would result in another 70 acres.
- Several upland areas (about 100 acres) that become inefficient for farming or inaccessible would be incorporated into the site. The project will be designed, in consultation with natural resource agencies, and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

The Wetland Restoration is a permanent restoration project. Land acquisition and design are already underway with construction award planned for late 2021. Construction of the Wetland is expected to take place in the 2022 construction season. The recreational components will be a long-term public use with the operation and maintenance responsibility and ownership falling under the Metro Flood Diversion Authority, Cass County, City of Fargo, and the Cass County Joint Water Resources District.

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

Cass County is a member of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority. The Diversion Authority was created in 2011 and solidified with a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in 2016 between the Cities of Fargo and Moorhead, along with Cass County (ND), Clay County (MN), and the Cass County Joint Water Resources District (CCJWRD)(ND). The purpose of the JPA was to establish a framework for the planning, design and management of the proposed Project. The Diversion Authority has partnered with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to plan, authorize, secure funding for, and construct a flood risk reduction project for the F-M metropolitan area. Ownership, operation, and maintenance of the 2016 Project was to be the collective responsibility of the Diversion Authority, the City of Moorhead, the City of Fargo, and other potential non-Federal sponsors.

The purpose of the Project is to reduce flood risk, flood damages, and flood protection costs related to flooding in the F-M metropolitan area, including the official purpose and need to Reduce flood risk potential associated with a long history of frequent flooding on local streams including the Red River, Sheyenne, Wild Rice, Maple, Rush and Lower Rush Rivers passing through or into the F-M metropolitan area, and Qualify substantial portions of the F-M metropolitan area for 100-year flood accreditation Reduce flood risk for floods exceeding the 100-year flood or greater, given the importance of the F-M metropolitan area to the region and recent frequencies of potentially catastrophic flood events.

The Diversion Authority is governed by a 13 person board, including 3 Cass County Commissioners (Steen, Peterson, Scherling), 3 Fargo City Commissioners (Mayor Mahoney, Piepkorn, Strand), 1 Cass County Joint Water Resource District Manager (Olson), 3 Moorhead Council Members (Mayor Judd, Hendrickson, Carlson), and 2 Clay County Commissioners (Campbell, Weyland).

The Executive Director of the Diversion Authority is Joel Paulsen.

Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to exempted activities please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

The purpose of this grant is to assist in funding the Drain 27 recreational features. This includes OHF cost share to support the construction of trails and two trailhead nodes.

Construction of the FM Area Diversion Project will result in unavoidable impacts to wetlands. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources be replaced through restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation of lost functions and services. Restoration of the Drain 27 site in Stanley Township will mitigate wetland impacts of the Southern Embankment in North Dakota.

Wetland restoration simply means the process of returning a former or degraded wetland to conditions that more closely resemble what the land was historically. Wetland restoration sites are often areas that have been altered by human activities. Human action typically alters one or more of the three principle wetland characteristics (wetland vegetation, hydric soils, and hydrology). Historic wetlands identified for restoration often lack the benefits of functional wetlands. The goal of restoration is to reestablish lost functions.

The Diversion Authority contracted with the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments to develop an FM Greenway concept to look for opportunities along the Diversion Project that could promote additional public benefit. These opportunities would need to develop and seek funding outside of those funds dedicated for flood protection.

The development of the FM Greenway Master Plan was informed by input received from community stakeholders. A Study Review Committee (SRC) was established with members representing many of the cities adjacent the greenway, including Horace, West Fargo, Fargo, Fargo Parks, West Fargo Parks, Horace Parks, and Cass County, along with other local agencies, that provided valuable insight and guidance to the process. The SRC met six times over the course of the study. Two rounds of public engagement were held. The first round focused on identifying community-desired recreation activities. The second round solicited feedback on the draft Master Plan.

Area residents have expressed a clear desire for more trail experiences. The long-term vision for the FM Greenway is to provide year-round trail access for people to walk, jog, bike, and to ride horses and all-terrain vehicles. The snow season provides opportunities to also snowshoe, cross-country ski, and snowmobile.

The preparation of the FM Greenway Master Plan was funded in part by the United States Department of Transportation with funding administered through the North Dakota Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

There are very limited outdoor recreation options, even more scarce are publicly accessible wetland trails, near the Fargo metro area. With one-fifth the population of North Dakota located within the Fargo-West Fargo area of Cass County, the Drain 27 Wetland Restoration Project is ideally located to share the Directives of the Outdoor Heritage Fund with a large population of North Dakotans that otherwise would have to travel a significant distance to enjoy in a key part of North Dakota's heritage.

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

Counties*: Cass

Is This Project Part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?* Yes

If Yes, Please Provide Copy of Plan: 12501_FargoMoorheadGreenway_RecreationMasterPlan_200803.pdf

Does Your Project Involve an Extenuating Circumstance?* No

Please Explain:

Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met. Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Management of Project*:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received federal appropriations for the construction of the Wetland Mitigation Project. In addition, the voters of Fargo and Cass County have overwhelmingly approved sales tax initiatives to fund the required land acquisition for the Wetlands Project. The sales revenue collected by Cass County and the City of Fargo has been dedicated for use by the Metro Flood Diversion Authority, a North Dakota political subdivision, who has the legal requirement to manage and maintain the required mitigation, including the Wetland Project.

Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Sustainability*:

Sales tax measures in Fargo and Cass County have been voter-approved until 2084. Funding received from these sales taxes can be used to fund the long-term operation and maintenance of the Wetland Project.

Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

Partial Funding*:

This grant is critical to funding the Drain 27 recreational features, including trails and two trailhead nodes. If no funding is received from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, then the public access and recreational features will not be included in the initial design and construction of the Wetland Project. Potentially they could be added at a later date if funding becomes available, but that would create inefficiencies and added costs. It is ideal to include potential features during the initial design and construction.

If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

Partnership Recognition*:

There will be two identified trail heads included in the design of the recreational features. These trail heads will include signage and kiosks. The Outdoor Heritage Fund would be recognized at each trail head as a valued partner.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: Yes

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File: Letter of Support - Drain 27 OHF Grant Application_09012020.pdf

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. Sample Contract

Can You Meet All the Provisions of the Sample Contract?* Yes

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

Provisions Unable to Meet:

Tasks

Tasks

Task	Start Date	Completion Date
Construction	09/01/2021	10/01/2022
Environmental Assessment	06/30/2020	08/01/2020
Land Acquisition	08/01/2020	07/01/2021
Project Design	01/01/2020	06/01/2021

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Bid Documents	1.000	USACE is the lead agency bidding the project with Diversion Authority review.
Design	1.000	USACE is the lead agency conducting the project design and plans with Diversion Authority review.
Final Project Ownership and Operations	1.000	Upon project acceptance the Diversion Authority will own, operate, and maintain this project.
Progress Reports	1.000	USACE will produce progress reports and conduct regular construction progress meetings.
Project Acceptance	1.000	USACE and Diversion Authority will certify the project is complete and accepted.
Project Management	1.000	USACE is the lead agency managing the project and construction with Diversion Authority oversight.

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes
Name: Jason Benson
First Name Last Name
Title: Cass County Engineer
Title
Date: 09/01/2020

Internal Application Number

#/ID:

Industrial Commission Action

Industrial Commission Action

Date of Commission meeting*:

**Did the Commission approve
funding?***

**If Yes, what is the approved
funding level?:**

Are there any contingencies?*

**If Yes, what are the
contingencies?:**

Minutes: