

Priority 2 Initial Framework and Process

3M PFC Settlement Work Group Meetings

January 18-19, 2022

Background and Context for Priority 2



Priority 2 Settlement Language

“utilize the Grant on projects that restore and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, habitat, fishing, resource improvement, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the East Metropolitan Area¹ and in downstream areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.

These projects may include, but are not limited to:

- (i) aquatic habitat and water resource protection and restoration;
- (ii) terrestrial and water trails;
- (iii) boat ramps and/or fishing piers along the Mississippi River, Lake Elmo, or other waterbodies in or downstream of the East Metropolitan Area;
- (iv) the restoration of wildlife habitat; and
- (v) implementation of other terrestrial conservation and recreational improvements in the same geographic area.”

1. Note that this includes, but is not necessarily limited to, Priority 1 communities.

Work Group Guidance from Settlement Agreement

- “The MPCA and/or the DNR shall form a Working Group to identify and recommend projects”
- “...consisting of representatives of the MPCA, the DNR, East Metropolitan area municipalities, and 3M”
- “The composition of the Working Group may vary depending on the project(s) at issue” for different Priorities

Co-Trustee Joint Objectives

- **Broad participation** – Gathering input from the affected communities as well as members of State agencies, citizens, and business interests
- **Transparency** – Following a decision-making process that is open and available to the public
- **Balance** – Balancing the need for multiple perspectives with the ability to make decisions quickly and efficiently

Context for Priority 2

- \$20 million in available funds for Priority 2 compared to \$700 million for Priority 1
 - Need for more streamlined process than Priority 1 to prioritize funding projects
- Need (and desire) for a range of stakeholders to provide input/feedback

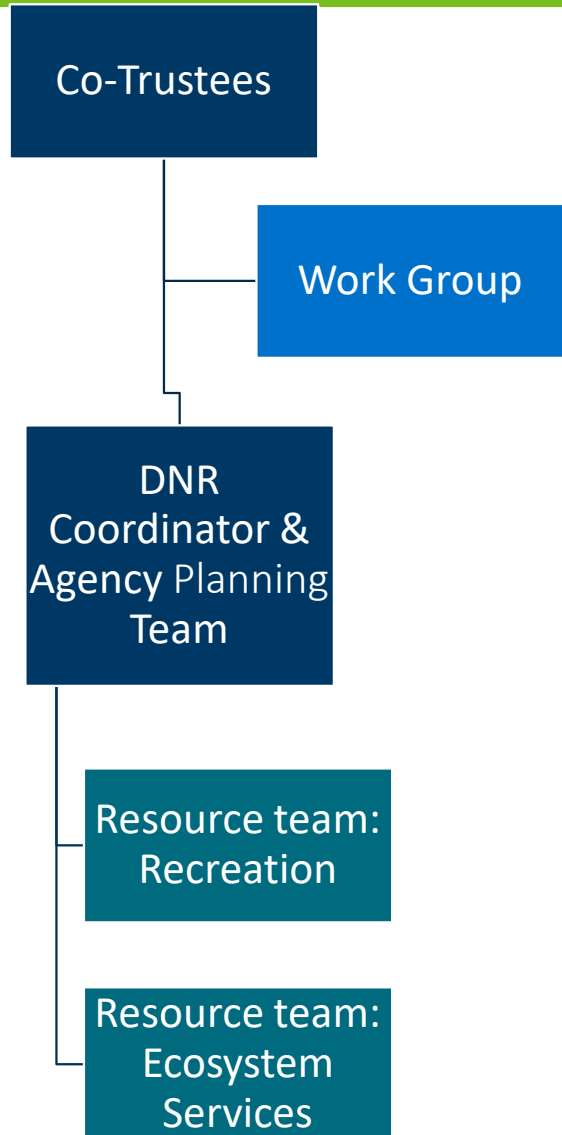
Proposed Approach and Structure



Proposed Approach for Priority 2

- Differs from remediation and Priority 1 (drinking water supply, protection)
- Follow typical Natural Resource Damage Assessment restoration approach:
 - Agencies work with experts (e.g. agency staff, other resource managers and restoration experts)
 - Develop restoration goals and evaluation criteria
 - Identify types of restoration based on nexus to injury (e.g. Recreation, Ecosystem Services)
 - Identify project ideas via solicitation
 - Evaluate and select projects for funding
- Incorporate Work Group feedback throughout the process

Proposed Structure for Priority 2



- Co-Trustees
 - DNR and MPCA managers and decision-makers
- DNR Coordinator & Agency Planning Team
 - DNR and MPCA staff and consultants conducting bulk of planning work
 - Ancillary support from DNR communications, grant, fiscal, contracts
- Resource Teams supporting Agencies
 - Two teams initially, may add additional teams
 - Internal and external subject area experts, as needed
- Feedback from Work Group

Initial Thoughts on Work Group for Priority 2

- New Priority 2 Work Group (separate from Priority 1 Work Groups)
 - Preferably limit to appx. 20 participants
 - Represent perspectives on natural resource restoration from across the affected area
- Mission
 - Dedicated focus on overall process and restoration needs
- Provide feedback on key points
 - Vision and priorities
 - Restoration goals and evaluation criteria
 - Types of projects
 - Help identify and recommend types of projects

Priority 2 Timing/Work Group Meeting Schedule

- Winter 2022: Finalize Approach and Structure
- Spring 2022: Organize internal team and determine Work Group membership
- Late Spring 2022: Work Group up and running
- Likely meet every other month for approximately 1 year

Questions/Input

1. Do you have general feedback on overall approach and structure?
2. How should membership of Work Group be determined?
 - What kinds of representation are important?
 - How to keep focus on overall process and restoration needs vs. specific interests?
3. How can Work Group best help Co-Trustee planning process?
4. How can Co-Trustees best engage others who are not participating in Work Group without hindering efficiency? (currently use 3M Settlement website and GovDelivery list signup)