

Priority 2 Update

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Priority 2 Settlement Purpose

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

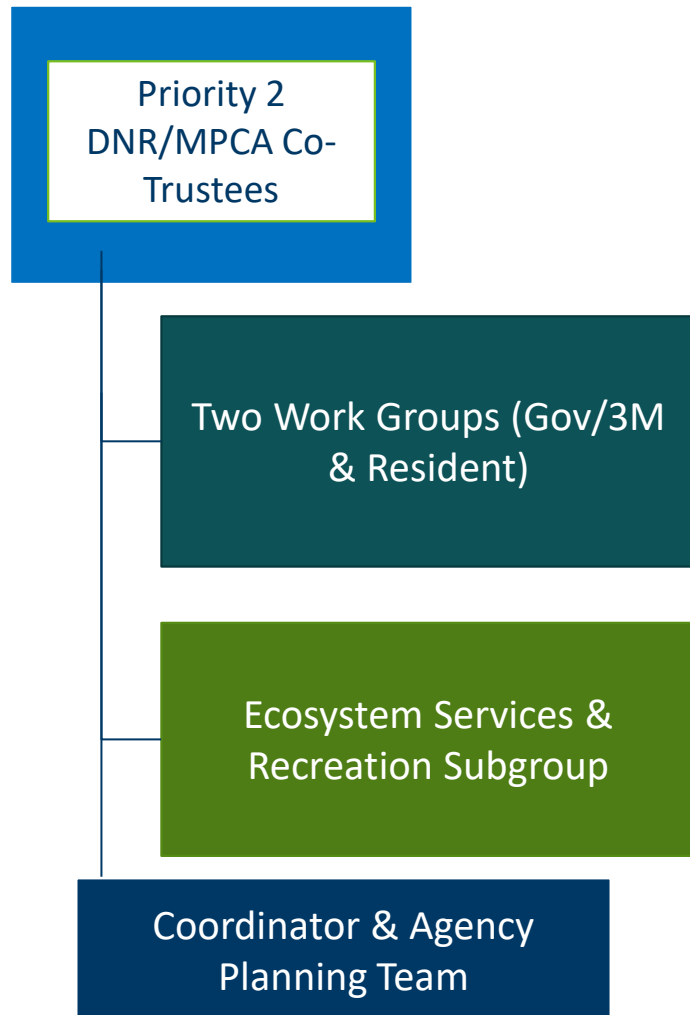
These projects may include, but are not limited to:

- (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."

Priority 2 Update

- Internal agency progress
 - Revisited Priority 2 goals
 - Developing project evaluation criteria
 - Considering the Request for Proposal process
 - Understanding and mitigating potential conflict of interest issues
 - Communication planning
- Staffing shortages are slowing work
- Revising schedule for future work group meetings

Other changes: Revised Priority 2 Structure



- Citizen work group name changed to "Resident" work group
 - Residents of Washington, Ramsey and Dakota counties are eligible to apply
- Subgroup
 - Duties are to share natural resource restoration priorities and natural resource planning documents
 - **No formal meetings**
 - Avoids conflict of interest

Priority 2 Project Funding Approach

- **All grant project funds will be available for the public competitive solicitation process**
- **No state-led projects are competing for funding and no state set-aside project funding was reserved at this time**
- Who can apply for a grant?
 - Project Sponsor: Any individual or organization with capability to propose and execute a project
 - NOT limited to Priority 2 Work Group members
 - Collaborations are encouraged



Mitigating Conflict of Interest

- Work Group members
 - Work Group members must not be involved in any way in the development or submittal of project proposals
 - You can still apply for grants as long as the individuals involved in the Work Group and proposal development are different and do not communicate
 - Applicants must list who helped develop the proposal
- Subgroup participants
 - No conflict of interest to participate in sharing information
 - All Subgroup participants can apply for grants with no conflicts

- **December-February**

- Recruit new members for Priority 2 Work Groups; Citizen and 3M/Government
- Recruit Subgroup participation to share natural resource priorities and planning documents
 - Meetings with individual stakeholders
- Develop draft WG and SG charters

- **Spring 2023**

- Initiate Priority 2 Work Group meetings
- At least three Work Group meetings needed to provide input on process documents

- RFP solicitation posted by the end of 2023; grants awarded in 2024

- All questions regarding Priority 2 should be sent to here: 3MPriority2@state.mn.us