

June 12, 2012

Pam Foster Felt
WDNR
101 S. Webster
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

RE: WDNR Capacity Grant

Dear Pam,

Enclosed please find our final reporting materials covering the period May 2011 through April 2012 (year 2 of 2 of the contract) per the deliverables outlined in our original proposal:

Executive Summary of the Proposal (from narrative)

Building on the activities, partnerships and accomplishments of the previous 2-year grant period, participating and advising fellow members of the Milwaukee River Work Group (now Greenway Coalition, MRGC) and Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, the River Revitalization Foundation will continue to provide assistance to our urban partners through educational opportunities, training and technical assistance.

Particular emphasis will be on the implementation of our Milwaukee and Menomonee River Land Protection Plans, focusing on projects within those watersheds that further the goals and objectives of our urban conservation mission including acquisition, restoration, recreation (Take a Hike!), engaging and employing urban youth in the river valley (Quest) and master planning for the "Milwaukee Central Park" overlay district.

(COMPLETED MASTER PLAN PROVIDED TO STAFF ON JAN. 26, 2011)

<http://www.protectmilwaukeeiver.org/masterplan.html>

Our successful models and strategies will be presented at trainings and conferences for widespread delivery of these collaborations at the regional, state and national level, providing other communities involved in urban conservation with these tools and methods to enhance protection of the natural resources special to their respective geographic area of the state.

YR 2: Indicators of Project Success: Outcomes and Progress Tracking

1. Continue Partnership in SWWT and MRWG

- Participation in Watershed Action Teams. *~Theresa Morgan continues as the staff person responsible for implementing the Joyce Foundation funded Menomonee River Land Protection Plan and Watershed Restoration Plan (WRPs) projects. She served as co-chair of the Menomonee River WAT and has been successful in obtaining grant funding to implement several small and large scale projects, including a Fund for Lake Michigan grant of \$65,000 for shoreline restoration at Granville Park. (Report to Joyce Fdn. attached as supplement – see Activity 2). Joyce funding has been awarded to SWWT for 2012-2015 and Theresa's role will change from WAT co-chair to liaison with Milwaukee County Parks on implementation of priority projects in the watershed.*
- Ordinance review and adoption by Milwaukee Common Council. *~Completed in May 2010. Milwaukee River Greenway Master Plan project implementation begins and continues, see next section.*
- Land trust partner deliverables accomplished (**Ongoing**). *~RRF is the only land trust in both the SWWT and MRGC partnerships; we are able to contribute toward water quality improvements through land based protection efforts, landowner contacts, municipal contacts, and projects that positively impact water quality such as riparian buffers and habitat restoration.*

2. Implementation of Milwaukee River Basin-wide Land Protection Plan(s)

- Incorporation of plan recommendations into WRPs and implementation of top priority projects. *~Completed; ongoing implementation. Funding from the Fund for Lake Michigan awarded (\$65,000) for a project on the Menomonee River at the Granville Dog Park, to restore 900 feet of heavily eroded shoreline at this site. Stakeholder meetings have initiated the planning process with an expected completion of December 2012. This plan will then inform restoration and construction at the site. A key element of this project is the partnership with Milwaukee County Parks as they own the land.*
- Critical habitat protected, improved. *~Through the engagement of our summer Earn & Learn crew, UWM service learning students and volunteers, we have removed "tons" of invasive plants and trees (mainly garlic mustard, buckthorn and Japanese knotweed) and planted thousands of native plants and trees in the river valley. Over the summer, fall semester and spring semester, 100+ students devoted 1,000+ hours on 40 acres in the river valley working on ecological restoration. An Americorps crew has also been approved for September through November of 2012 and will focus on the Southbranch Creek site in Brown Deer.*

3. Establish New Partnerships

- Greenway Master Plan completed and implementation strategy defined. *~Completed; Several Greenway partners are working collectively to implement priority projects*

f

f

- Site planning completed – vision for new park expressed. *~Made possible by a \$10,000 River Planning grant from the DNR, our site plan has been completed (attached) and implementation begun. We have installed a pollinator garden, paths, and improved the boat landing for increased public access and recreational opportunities. Leveraged grants from the Kodak American Greenways program and River Network/MillerCoors. More national exposure was gained through the River Network/MillerCoors voting contest, in which we took 3rd place for a \$5,000 grant award to install the pollinator garden.*

6. Regional, State, and National Presentations/ Conferences

- Two presentations annually at scheduled land and water conservation and environmental education conferences. *~RRF served on the host, planning, fundraising and program committees for the Land Trust Alliance national conference held here in Milwaukee in October 2011. "Conservation in the City" was presented in the urban track, and the field trip hike mentioned previously was sold out. We participated in the Water Council's Water Summit (September 2011), and the Clean Rivers, Clean Lake conference (April 30, 2012) where we accepted a \$1,800 mini-grant for a restoration project at our Southbranch Creek site in the Village of Brown Deer, the Green Energy Summit and River Rally. Additional presentations have been given and scheduled in conjunction with stakeholder meetings, neighborhood association meetings, the Wisconsin Women Environmental Professionals, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Parks and Recreation Committee, and Kiwanis and Rotary Club luncheons. A note about Kiwanis Club – not only have they attained their fundraising goal for Kiwanis Landing, RRF has partnered with the Club on press conferences, events, and site visits to increase awareness and resources for the Wheelhouse campaign.*

Kimberly A. Lefke
executive director

6-12-12

(

)

Campaign information (budget):

Project Costs

Acquisition	\$1,400,000
Demolition (complete)	\$ 40,000
Restoration	\$ 260,000
Endowment	\$ 300,000
<u>Total</u>	\$2,000,000

Revenue: The following has been raised to support acquisition and restoration efforts including: Building demolition and parking lot removal; Site and management plan; Invasive species removal; Native tree planting; Trail connections; boat launch; Pollinator Garden installation; ongoing stewardship.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Fund	\$ 700,000
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Greenseams Program	\$ 400,000
Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee	\$ 100,000
Jack & Phoebe Lewis Fdn. (\$20,000/yr. for 5 yrs.)	\$ 100,000
Argosy Foundation	\$ 50,000
Greater Milwaukee Foundation	\$ 50,000
Helen Bader Foundation	\$ 20,000
We Energies	\$ 10,000
Barry Mandel	\$ 10,000
Rotary Club	\$ 10,000
Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation	\$ 10,000
David & Julia Uihlein Charitable Trust	\$ 10,000
M&I Foundation	\$ 10,000
RRF Board of Directors	\$ 5,000
River Network MillerCoors	\$ 5,000
Ortgiesen Foundation	\$ 1,000
Women Environmental Professionals	\$ 1,000
Kodak American Greenways Award	\$ 1,000
<u>Total</u>	\$1,493,000
<u>Balance</u>	\$ 507,000

