

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2009 Handshake Program Application

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**Eligibility checklist to qualify per ER 1130-2-500, Chapter 12.**

1. Is the seed money going to be spent at Corps facilities and resources that are being maintained by the Corps at 100% expense on the day the agreement is signed?  **Yes**  **No**
2. Is the agreement with a non-federal public or private entity(ies)?  **Yes**  **No**
3. Is the proposed activity within current authorities and contained in the annual or 5-year work plan in the approved OMP?  **Yes**  **No**
4. If no, when will the OMP be updated and approved? (example: Feb 09)

**If the answer to either question 1 or 2 is No, the proposal cannot be authorized under the Corps Challenge Partnership program. If the answered to question 3 is No, and the date provided in the answer to question 4 would come after the commencement of the proposed challenge partnership, the activity cannot be considered under this program. Reference application instructions for further clarification.**

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**Highlight a box and press F1 if you need online help to complete any item.**

Corps Lake/Project Name: **Melvern Lake Project**  
Handshake Proposal Title: **Marais des Cygnes Wetland Project**  
Corps POC Name: **Jim Franz**  
Street Address: 31051 Melvern Lake Parkway  
City, state and zip code: **Melvern, KS 66510**  
Telephone: **(785) 549 - 3318 ext.**  
Fax: **(785) 549 - 3611** E-Mail: **melvern@usace.army.mil**

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Partner Organization 1: Melvern Lake Watershed Water Quality Project  
Partner Authorized Official: Paul Ingle  
Phone: (785) 640 - 2645 ext.

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Partner Organization 2: Kansas Wildlife and Parks  
Partner Authorized Official: Don Patton  
Phone: (620) 699 - 3372 ext.

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Partner Organization 3: Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams  
Partner Authorized Official: John Bond  
Phone: (785) 463 - 5804 ext.

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Categorize Use: (may check more than one)

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpretation/Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Event                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Safety                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Facilities              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trails                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Center                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Management           | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Other/ Miscellaneous |

Handshake Funding Amount Requested (\$10,000 Limit): \$10000

### **Description of the Handshake partnership and the project to be accomplished:**

**PURPOSE:** To restore and expand wetland plant communities and management capabilities of the Marsh of the Swans. The Marsh of the Swans is an 80 acre area located below Melvern Dam between two major highways. The area has a 20 acre wetland cell located at the north end which is nearing the 20-year age category and is in need of extensive renovation. The remaining 60 acres of this site consist of warm-season grasses with a few hardwood trees interspersed. Although this area would likely be considered above average in wildlife habitat quality, we lack large suitable wetland areas around the lake and this project would add an additional 30 acres of prime wetland habitat. To help reverse the trend of loss of wetland acreage in the United States we feel we are at an opportune time to proceed with the further development of the Marsh of the Swans area. Our partners have available funding and all are expressing an eagerness to see this project completed.

Phase I of this project will be accomplished by constructing a waterline from the Outlet Park, located below the dam, to a series of three new wetland cells constructed on the south end of the Marsh of the Swans. Wetland weed species and control of riparian type trees can then be accomplished by water level management, without the significant use of chemicals or physical labor. The means to manage the water level will allow for enhanced moist soil vegetation to provide dependable food sources for waterfowl and other wetland birds. This project will increase the desired unique habitat for wetland-dependant birds, amphibians and reptiles. The Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) will manage the project to provide a high-quality sanctuary for migrating waterfowl and other wetland species. This area will be used for research and educational purposes as well as a watchable wildlife area. Four marsh cells will provide different levels of marsh stages, like wet prairie, wet soil, shallow water and deep water. ONLY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PHASE I ARE SHOWN IN THE WORKSHEET.

Phase II of the project will involve adding hiking trails throughout the area to provide recreation and exercise. A handicapped accessible trail with wildlife viewing blind(s) will be added. River access points for fishermen plus a small boat access for jon boats, canoes and kayaks will be added. A five vehicle parking lot will be constructed near the Kansas highway 31/Marsh of the Swans access point. Interpretive signs will be added at strategic locations to discuss the importance of wetlands, waterfowl/shorebird identification and management of wetlands through partnerships.

### **Marsh of the Swans - Background**

In 1986, we searched for a solution to an erosion problem on an 80 acre area between U.S. 75 and old U.S. 75 highways downstream of the Outlet Park at Melvern Lake. We enlisted the support of the Soil Conservation Service to survey the site to determine the feasibility of creating an impoundment and subsequent wetland area. Their survey indicated that a 25 acre wetland could be developed with only a 6,000 cubic yard embankment.

In the summer of 1991, a Cooperative Agreement between KDWP and COE was developed and the Marsh of the Swans wetland site was constructed. The area was designated as a wildlife viewing and outdoor education program area. This area has been a popular viewing point for watchable wildlife, but over the years cattails and willows have overgrown the area and have begun to obscure the viewing capability for the public and educators. A major renovation is needed to bring the wetland back to a diverse wetland community and not a monoculture of cattails/willows.

Following are proposed work items to complete the project:

1. One problem Marsh of the Swans currently has is no source of water to help with wetland management, other than relying solely on runoff. We propose adding a 2" water line that will extend from the fish rearing /swimming pond waterline in the Outlet Park to the new wetland sites located at the south end of the Marsh of the Swans area. We will need approximately 1,000 ft of water line with 150 ft of this line being bored under US Highway 75. We will need at least two valves for connections and a dissipating structure.
2. We intend to increase the scope of the marsh area by adding three, approximately 10 acre cells. The new 2" waterline will daylight on the south side of the new cells, which is a moderately elevated area and will allow the water to gravity flow from cell to cell. The waterline, and subsequent water level control structures in the individual cells, will provide the means to adjust water levels in each cell and manage specific waterfowl/shorebird species.
3. Add a five car parking lot near the main marsh and K-31 highway.
4. Add two to three fishing access points along the river. Connect these access points via a graveled trail. Construct a boat access point to the Marais Des Cygnes River for jon boats, canoes and kayaks.
5. Add a gravel hiking trail throughout the area to allow access to each of the four cells.
6. Add wildlife blinds to two of the cells for wildlife viewing and study.
- 7.. Have one handicapped accessible trail with a wildlife blind and viewing ports at chair level.
8. Add interpretive signage at strategic locations in the area to provide information on the value of wetlands, waterfowl identification and the partnerships created to complete this project.

**Sustainability:** We expect the lifespan of this project's facilities to surpass the 25 year mark easily. With routine and sustained maintenance there is no reason the facilities will not last well beyond that point. Volunteer labor will be used to provide the more routine maintenance and a combination of Corps and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks staffs will be used to make any necessary major maintenance work. Because of the partnership that already exists on the Marsh of the Swans with KDWP, our O&M costs will remain low with the current shared responsibilities.

**Partnership Value:** This project involves six partners with each sharing significant portions of the development of the project. The Natural Resource Conservation Service has already provided in-kind labor by shooting contour elevations and developing the design of the three new cells. The Kansas Alliance of Wetlands and Streams has committed \$5,000.00 to the project. Other partners have verbally committed funding and assistance in the form of trail development and planning education opportunities.

**Environmental Stewardship Value:** This project will add approximately 30 acres of wetlands to the lake project's wetland inventory. Melvern Lake is located on the western edge of the Osage Cuestas region of Kansas, which is primarily a mid to tallgrass prairie region. By adding additional wetland acreage we are providing critical resting, feeding and staging areas for waterfowl and shorebirds in the central flyway.

**Communication and Education Value:** This site lies below Melvern Dam and between U.S. Highway 75 and old U.S. Highway 75. "New" U.S. 75 highway carries several thousand vehicles each day and the lake's information center and Outlet Park's facilities often serve as a resting point for travelers. This would also be an opportune time to capture these individuals as potential wildlife watchers/sightseers during their stop. Initially, we will solicit the participation of the nearby Marais Des Cygnes Valley school district for them to utilize the area as a study area. As part of Phase II, we will erect interpretive signs at strategic locations throughout the new site. These signs will discuss the importance of wetlands, waterfowl/shorebird identification and the partnership established to create this project.

**Recreational Benefit:** Because of the location of this project, between two highway systems, this area will not be open to hunting. Our primary interest is to make the area available for hiking on an established trail system, provide ADA access for handicapped individuals, fully develop a watchable wildlife system for the area and offer fishing and canoe/kayak access points on the adjacent Marais Des Cygnes River. We believe that by offering several types of recreation we can pull in a more diverse clientele.

**Innovativeness:** This is by far the largest undertaking of a partnership between Federal and state government agencies and local community involvement. The nearby community of Melvern, KS is currently working on grants to establish a trail system from the town of Melvern to Melvern lake, a distance of approximately five miles. We are anxious to tie our trail system into theirs, which would give us a continuous trail system from Melvern Dam to the City of Melvern.

**The Corps will:**

- \* Provide acreage and land base for the wetland areas and trails.
- \* Provide expertise in design of trail and interpretive development.
- \* Select and establish boat launch river access point.
- \* Provide interpretive signage.
- \* NO money will be used for Corps of Engineers labor.

**The Partner(s) will:**

- \* The Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide labor and expertise in determining contour elevations and design schematics for the area.
- \* The Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams will provide funding as part of their overall goal of creating additional wetland habitat in east central Kansas.

- \* The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will provide expertise in wetland management (post construction), funding for construction and locating suitable contractors for wetlands construction.
- \* The Melvern Lake Watershed Water Quality Project will provide overall management and coordination of this project.
- \* The Kansas Department of Transportation will provide the permit to allow us to bore under U.S. Highway 75 to extend the waterline.

Additional Partners on this project:

- 1.) City of Melvern - Melvern Pride Committee - Point of Contact - Dee Robinson
- 2.) Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 3.) Kansas Department of Transportation

\* The Natural Resources Conservation Service has already provided in-kind labor and expertise in shooting contour elevations of the area. They will provide design drawings for the new wetland cells. Estimated expense: \$2,500.00

\* The Kansas Department of Transportation will provide the permit to allow us to bore under U.S. Highway 75 to extend the 2" waterline to the new site. Estimated expense: \$500.00.

## Challenge Partnership Financial Work Sheet

Corps Project Name: Melvern Lake

Work Project Title: Marsh Of The Swans

POC Name: Jim Franz

Address: 31051 Melvern Lake Parkway      City: Melvern      State: KS      Zip Code: 66501

Telephone: 785-549-3318

Location on Project: Between US. 75 And Old US. 75 hwy. below dam.

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Partner Organization 1: Melvern Lake Watershed Water Quality Project

POC Name: Paul Ingle

Address: P.O. Box 8736      City: Topeka      State: KS      Zip Code: 66608

Telephone: 785-640-2645

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Partner Organization 2: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

POC Name: Don Patton

Address: P.O. Box 158      City: Reading      State: KS      Zip Code: 66868

Telephone: 620-699-3372

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Partner Organization 3: Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS)

POC Name: John Bond

Address: 2157 10<sup>th</sup> Rd.      City: Clay Center      State: KS      Zip Code: 67432

Telephone: 785-463-5804

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Proposed start date of work: Jan-08

Simple description of work to be accomplished through the partnership: Plan and construct three wetland cells, renovate existing cell, construct hiking trails/ADA accessible trail with viewing blinds, construct parking area and have nearby river access points.

Double click on spreadsheet to access data entry fields:

	Local Corps Office	Handshake Funds	Partner 1	Partner 2	Partner 3	Total
Salaries	\$3,000	N/A	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$13,000
Travel	\$0	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Materials and Supplies	\$0	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Equipment Use	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funds Contributed	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$35,000
Personal Property	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Volunteer Efforts	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
In-Kind Services	N/A	N/A	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (explain below)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$58,000</b>
<b>Share of Total Cost</b>	5.2%	17.2%	6.9%	60.3%	10.3%	100%

Explanations: