



St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund
Annual Report 2015



The St. Lawrence River Research and Education Fund (SLRREF) was established as part of the Comprehensive Relicensing Settlement Agreement (Agreement) which was reached during the licensing of the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project operated by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in Massena, New York. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial support for environmental research and environmental education projects relating to the ecology of the St. Lawrence River and its surrounding environs.

The fund is managed by a Board which consists of representatives from NYPA, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Save the River, the St. Lawrence-Lewis Board of Cooperative Educational Services, St. Lawrence County Planning Office; St. Lawrence Audubon, and a representative from a local municipality.

2015 Activities

The Board met on March 6, 2015 and reviewed four proposals; three proposals totaling \$28,550 were approved. Total matching funds for the approved proposals were \$44,980.

Projects approved in 2015

The St. Lawrence Land Trust proposed educating landowners and the community about the benefits and costs of conservation easements. Funds were requested to develop presentation materials and to conduct informational sessions at municipal, organizational and farm bureau meetings with the goal of encouraging landowners to create conservation easements on their property. SLRREF contribution - \$6,500 develop materials; matching funds - \$8,250 for speakers to conduct sessions.

The Thousand Island Land Trust (TILT) proposes to increase volunteerism to help preserve the environment and promote environmental education. TILT proposed conducting a minimum of five training sessions with a goal of increasing the volunteer force by at least 50 people. SLRREF contribution - \$7,050 to develop materials; matching funds - \$26,730 for educational training sessions.

The Akwesasne Freedom School requested funds to educate high school students in the complex life history and habitat of wetland animals, fish and traditional foods and medicines. Students will be paired with elders speaking the traditional language who will absorb the education and use it to build teaching skills by transferring their knowledge to younger students. SLRREF contribution - \$15,000; matching funds - \$10,000.



Financial Review

The SLRREF was established by providing the principal sum of \$1,008,000 into an account with Wachovia Bank in 2003 after a new license for the Project was accepted. The income and principal amount was to be used to fund the operation of the SLRREF including all expenses, grants and other disbursements. At the March 11, 2014 meeting, the Board changed their guidelines to limit grant submissions to once a year on January 1, to ensure funding throughout the remaining life of the license.

2015 Expenditures

Approved Projects in 2015	\$28,550
Fund Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$922,702
Funds committed	\$57,274*
Uncommitted funds	\$836,878

* Reflects funds approved for previous years projects that have not yet been disbursed to the project applicant.

Planned 2015 Expenditures

By January 1, 2016, three proposals were received. The Board will evaluate these proposals and select the projects to be funded.